GRAPEVINE

VISITACION·VALLEY

NUMBER 103 — SERVING OUR COMMUNITY — FEBRUARY 1995

Valley Neighbors Get Together for Clean-Up Day

Many participants at the Visitacion Valley Clean-Up Campaign took a little time-out for some spirited face painting.

By Lisa Wichser
VVMS Staff

Visitacion Valley's *Community- Wide Clean-Up Campaign* hosted January 16 on Martin Luther King Day was a tremendous success in every conceivable way. There was e huge and vibrant turn-out of people of all ages, colors, ethnicities end backgrounds - a significant feat for an area where some say apathy and tensions tend to be high. And together, more than 250 people mede e visible difference in the Valley by removing many bags of trash and debris from McLaren Park and other areas ot the neighborhood.

What contributed to the success of the *Clean-Up event?* In retrospect, six major factors helped organizers achieve success: tapping into community spirit, involving everyone, networking, celebration, weather and individuals.

TAPPING COMMUNITY SPIRIT

A question initially raised by the handful of community activists seated around the planning table was not "How can we get people to clean up McLaren Park?" but "How can we bring this community together?" Discussants representing five or six different community organizations linked loosely by membership in the *Visitacion Valley Collaborative* decided an event needed to be held, but one that would give participants a sense of *community* - that is, where participants would derive feelings ot meaning, shared purpose, contribution, belonging or pride in community; and where people come to realize that collectively, we can achieve important common goals much better than we can alone.

Belief at the table was that many people desire to have this sense of community fulfilled, but that pressures of daily life, apathy and cynicism stemming from past disappointments, disenfranchisement and lack of convenient opportunity conspire to keep our sense of *community* unfulfilled. This clean-up neturally suggested itself as a common goal that could bring people together and planning for the event began.

INVOLVING EVERYONE

Because community strengthening was the primary goal, pienners wanted to involve as many people and groups associated with the Visitacion Valley neighborhood es possible. As soon as the event date was set, a barrage of letters and flyers went out to all known community-based organizations, schools, merchants, agencies, groups and individuals informing them of the upcoming event and soliciting their help in whatever form they could offer.

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S.F. Supervisors to Finalize Proposed Curfew Ordinance

By Gerry L. Galven

Here's good news for San Francisco residents, tmsients and tourists who move around the city at night for various reasons.

S.F. Board of Supervisors, which is the highest policy making body of the city, will soon finalize a draft on the proposed curfew law to minors under the ege of 17.

Flynn Bradley, an executive of the Mayor's Criminal Justice Council, predicted a marked reduction in juvenile misbehavior in such S.F. public places as the streets, parks and Muni with the passage and implementation of the curfew law. Bradley was resource speaker during e meeting of the Visitacion Valley Task Force at St. James Presbyterian Church on January 19.

Patterned efter tested and successful curfew ordinances in San Jose, the San Francisco version would "make it unlawful for any minor under 17 to be in or on any public street, public park or any other public place between midnight 12:01 a.m. to 6 a.m. on Saturdays and Sundays, and between 11 p.m. on any Sunday, Monday, Tuesday Wednesdey or Thursday until 5 e.m. of the following day."

Exceptions apply to cases where the minor is accompanied by a parent or legal guardian. If there is evidence the minor has expressed parental permission, is participating in e religious, educational or political activity, or is engaged in an emergency mission, law enforcement elements will leave the youth alone.

"When a minor is picked up for a curfew violation, he or she will be taken to e central facility," Bradley pointed out. "If the parent or legal guardian appears at this central facility, the minor will be released to that person."

A lot of constitutional rights, and legal, ethical, racial questions and issues were raised during the open forum. Bradley successfully and eloquently explained the legality and morality of the issues at hand.

Visitacion Veiley neighborhood reaction to the proposed curfew law has been of varying tone. There were segments who saw it as another bureaucratic exercise in futility.

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Lead Poisoning, Leland Residence Discussed by Valley Task Force

Visitacion Valley Task Force (VVTF) resumed monthly meetings January 28 as members discussed dangers of lead poisoning, and learned further developments about Hospice by the Bay's *Leland Avenue Residence*.

"Lead poisoning is an extremely important issue for children in this town," said Nell Gendel of Preventitive Health Issues, who explained dangers of lead affected ten percent of the children in San Francisco

Gendel also explained testing of children tor lead could be deceiving because a blood test would only determine if a child had previously been eposed for 30 days.

Hospice Foundation's Mike Geraughty explained lack of funds were directly responsible for several work stoppages at Hospace by the Bay's future *Leland Ave. Residence* at 141 Leland Ave. Now scheduled for completion by early summer, Geraughty said the facility would serve as "a clean and sober living environment 24 hours a day" for 50 people with life threatening illnesses.

Local residents are urged to attend VVTF meetings, now held the fourth Saturday morning of each month. Next meeting is February 25, 10:30 a.m. at St. James Presbyterian Church, 240 Leland Ave.

Embarcadero F-Line Work Progresses

Construction is moving along on the F-Line, which when completed will run from Upper Merket St. neighborhoods to the foot of Market and then along the waterfront to Fisherman's Wharf. Muni's popular historic trolley fleet - featuring cars from Russia, Japan, italy, Australia and Germany - which presently operates only on a *special events* schedule, will serve the new line on a regular basis. Also scheduled to run on the new F-Line are rehabilitated PCC (President's Conference Committee) streetcars, designed in the 1930s and considered to be among the most reliable streetcars ever built. Muni purchased the cars from a number of U.S. cities which had discontinued their use.

The new F-Line will help ease congestion in the Muni Metro below Market St.; function as an alternative to the cable cars for those traveling between the Union Square hotel and shopping district; and provide greater transit eccess to the open space created along the Embarcadero with the demolition of the elevated freeway after the Lome Prieta earthquake in 1989.

Construction of the Embarcadero Roadway and F-Line is taking place in four phases: North Embercadero (Broadway to North Point St.) which is already underway and scheduled for completion by late summer 1995; the Fisherman's Wharf Loop, with the North Point to Powell St. segment set for completion by late Spring 1996, the Powell to Jones Sts. segment by fall 1997; and the Mid-Embarcadero section, on which construction will begin following a decision regarding the roadway alignment. Since a number ot transportation end land use issues have to be resolved before construction can begin in this area, project construction will not be finished until 1999.

In the North Embarcadero roadway, the F-Line will operate in a dedicated median with boarding islands, rows of stately Canary Island palms, London Plane trees, and contemporary and historic art works. Disabled eccesible stops will be located at key Embarcadero intersections - Broadway and Green St., Levi Plaza and Pier 23, Chestnut and Sansome Sts., and Bay St. - and on Jefferson, Jones and Beach Sts.

Waterfront at Work

Civil Rights Pioneer to Open SFSU Speaker Series

Rosa Parks, whose refusal to give up her seat on e Montgomery, Alabama bus nearly 40 years ego was instrumental in beginning the modern civil rights movement, will bring her vision for change to San Francisco State University Wednesday, February 22.

Parks' appearance - 12:30 p.m. in the university's gymnasium - will open SFSU's *Achievers Against the Odds* program, designed to honor and present to the SFSU campus community and to public role models who heve achieved against difficult odds.

During her visit to SFSU, Parks will unveil plans for a new youth program to begin later this year that will involve American youth re-enacting freedom bus rides of the early civil rights movement. Plans call for the university to be among regional information and organizational sites for the new program, which is still in planning stages.

Parks will also speak of events in her life which led to her role in the early civil rights movement and how the consciousness of America has been altered since.

Parks' concern and involvement in issues of American society continue today.

"I'm most concerned about our young people and trying to motivate them to use their potential to make this e better world with peece and prosperity instead of so much crime," Parks, now 81, said at a news conference last month announcing the publication of her new book, *Quiet Strength: The Faith, the Hope and the Heart of a Woman Who Changed* e *Nation*, scheduled for late February release from Zondervan Publishing House.

The Rev. Cecil Williams of Glide Memorial Church will serve as master of ceremonies at the February 22 event. Author Ted McMillan will speak, and the Philip and Sara Burton High School *Touch of Class Choir* and student actors from Meadows Livingston School will also perform a half hour prior to the event.

S.F. Supervisor Willie Kennedy will present a proclamation from City Hall to Parks in honor of Parks' visit to the City.

Quiet Strength is Parks' second book. In 1992 she published *Rosa Parks: My Story* with Jim Haskins. Copies of the new book will be for sale at the campus bookstore in the Student Center, and Parks will be available to sign copies efter the 12:30 p.m. event.

On December 1, 1955, Rosa Parks refused to give up her seat to a white man on a bus in Montgomery. Found guilty of violating the segregation laws, she was fined $10, plus $4 in court costs. Her arrest and conviction led to the year-long Montgomery Bus Boycott.

On November 13, 1956, the Supreme Court declared segregation laws in Montgomery unconstitutional. Mrs. Parks' refusal to give in changed the course of history, sparking the civil rights movement which finally established Martin Luther King, Jr. as its leader.

On Martin Luther King Day this year, Parks was in the Los Angeles audience as President Clinton remembered the late civil rights leader. Later, Clinton personally greeted Parks.

San Francisco State University, e comprehensive public university with an enrollment of 26,000 students, is part of California State University (CSU), largest system of senior higher education in the country.

SFSU is committed to community-focused applied research and campus/community projects that address such issues as homelessness health needs of immigrant families, youth gangs, job creation in the Bay Area, environmental restoration, keeping at-risk students in school, and more.

Tickets for the event go on sale to the public February 6 and cost $5 for general admission; $2 student/senior. Partial proceeds benefit the SFSU *Rosa Parks Scholarship Fund.*

Sign language interpretation will be available.

This event is sponsored by SFSU Student Affairs and Associated Students Performing Arts. For more information, call 338-2032.

S.F Orchid Society to Represent U.S. in Japan

San Francisco's sister city, Osaka, has invited S.F. Orchid Society to participate in the 1995 Osaka International Orchid Festival in Japan. S.F. Orchid Society was asked to attend this prestigious event because of outstanding success of its ennual *Pacific Orchid Exposition*, taking place the last weekend of February at Fort Mason's *Festival Pavilion.*

Representing the society le Tom Perlite, orchid grower, owner of Golden Gate Orchids and recipient of the coveted *George Moore Medal* from the Royal Horticulture Society in England. He will be accompanied by Jim Hamilton and Ron Ehlera, members and owners of Petite Plaisance.

A preview of the Osaka show exhibit can be seen at the Society's *Pacific Orchid Exposition*, February 24 through 26. On Friday, February 24, proceeds from displays - open 6 to 10 p.m. - will be donated to the Helen Crocker Russell Library and the cool-growing orchid collection at the Conservatory in Golden Gate Park. Call 665-3468 for more information.

State Taxes Now Filed Electronically

Franchise Tax Board (FTB) has announced availability of 24-hour tax assistance and electronic filing.

Good news this year for state income tax filers is that assistance is just a phone call eway. Answers to the most commonly asked state tax questions are available 24 hours through FAST (Fast Answers baout State Taxes) telephone service.

FAST can also be used for ordering tax forms and to find out the status of e state tax refund between 6 a.m. and 10 p.m. Monday through Saturday. Taxpayers can refer to the back of their tax booklet for instructions on using FAST. The toll-free number is 1-800-338-0505. Last year more than 2.2 million taxpayers used the toll-free service.

For the first time, Californians can choose to have their returns filed electronically by e qualified tax preparer. Electronically filed returns significantly reduce errors and FTB guarantees refunds from electronically- filed returns will be issued within two weeks.

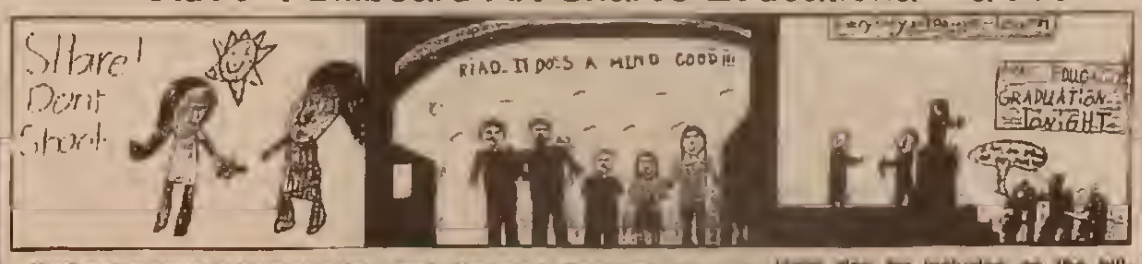
Some 540A forms have an error affecting only those taxpayers reporting unemployment insurance on their federal form 1040 who also file e 540A form. On side two, part one, the form erroneously refers to line 20 of their federal form 1040 for the amount of unemployment insurance. They should refer to line 19 of their federal form instead.

For state purposes, unemployment compensation is not taxable. For more information, taxpayers can call FAST and enter code 618.

FTB reminds taxpayers that the earlier they file, the quicker they will receive a refund. Those taypayers filing in January and February will generally receive their refund within two to four weeks. Those filing in March or April could have e wait of six to eight weeks.

Last year nearly nine million taxpayers had an overpayment or refund. Average overpayment was $421, up $24 from the previous year.

VVES Student Billboard Art Shares Educational Values



Staff and students of Visitacion Valley Elementary School (VVES) were at the corner of Bayshore Blvd. and Sunnydale Ave. January 24 for the 10:30 a.m. unveiling of their *Neighborhood Image Enhancement* billboard, a joint effort between Jamison/ Cawdrey/ Benjamin, Gannett Outdoor McKenzie Communications and VVES.

Students had submitted drawings depicting sharing, reading and learning which were later reproduced in a large size for inclusion on the billboard.

"We want positive things coming out of the Valley," said VVES Principal Vincent Chao. "We want people to think of Visitacion Valley as a neighborhood that values education."

More Police Officers for Ingleside

By Capt. Michael Dower, Ingleside Station

The 1994 season ended another extremely busy year at Ingleside Station. We at Ingleside Station have felt it a privilege to serve the community during the last year and believe that many strong relationships have developed. In 1995, I look forward to continuing my assignment as the Commanding Officer of Ingleside Station, with full committment to increasing our efforts in community policing.

New Officers: 1995 will be the year the Department begins one of the largest hiring and training programs ever. Over 200 officers are expected to enter the Department in response to voter-approved hiring mandates and federal crime bill recently passed.

Provisional Sergeant Promotions: The Chief will be promoting about 30 officers to the rank of provisional sergeant in the next month or so. Half of the new sergeants will be working as patrol supervisors, while the other half will augment the chronically understaffed investigative bureau.

Crime Statistics: Part One Crimes have continued to decrease for the past two months. Compared to last year, crime is down 12.7 percent citywide and 13 percent in the Ingleside district.

Food Drive: Sgt. John Sterling again coordinated his annual Christmas Food Drive, purchasing and delivering several dozen boxes of food to the needy elderly residents of Ingleside.

Dinner for Officers: The Northwest Bernal Block Club hosted their annual dinner for officers on Christmas Eve. Those officers on duty and away from their families certainly appreciated the wonderful food served.

Station Decoraton: We were pleased to have the Station decorated for the holidays by the children of St. Anthony's School. Sr. John Ellen and friends came personally to decorate and wish us a happy holiday.

Sunnydale: On the third Saturday of November and the second Saturday of December, our Auto Theft Abatement Program concentrated their activities in the Sunnydale area and made eight arrests, recovered five stolen vehicles, issued 19 citations and towed 11 vehicles. Bernal Heights, Holly Park and the Excelsior were also included in this operation.

In addition, we have been meeting with the residents of Geneva Towers, Geneva Tenants Association and the Sunnydale on several crime abatement programs which have proved very successful.

Traffic enforcement remains a major concern of many neighborhood groups. Special enforcement efforts have been underway along Teresita Blvd., the area of Guadalupe School and along Alemany Blvd.

Geneva and San Jose Aves.: Although Muni construction in the Geneva - San Jose Ave. intersection has been completed, we continue to work with the Department of Parking and Traffic to study ways to improve this intersection and the entire Alemany corridor.

As a result of your complaints about traffic in the District, the Department's Traffic Division assigned motorcycle officers to the busiest areas for a special two-week enforcement program. And, beginning in February, a traffic officer will be attending all of our community meetings to respond directly to your concerns regarding traffic problems in the neighborhood.

RECENT REPORTS

Our patrol officers have been especially busy during the last few months making many outstanding arrests. Here are some highlights:

28th and Duncan: Officers observed a 61-year-old woman have her purse snatched. They pursued the suspect vehicle and arrested three people, later determined to have been responsible for at least five other thefts. One of the suspects was already on felony probation for carrying a concealed weapon.

Alemany and Norton: Community Policing Officer Dave Wright was walking his beat when he saw a 65-year-old woman getting her purse snatched. Officer Wright chased the 17-year-old suspect on foot, and with the assistance of other Ingleside officers, took the suspect into custody, recovering the victim's property. The suspect proved to be responsible for at least three other thefts of the same type.

Corpus Christi Church (Santa Rosa and Alemany): Ingleside plain-clothes officers set up a surveillance and captured a suspect who had been stealing women's purses left in the pews while they received Communion. The suspect, a parole violator, was caught in the act of stealing a purse.

Mission and Brazil: Beat Officer Jerry Neitz spotted a 13-year-old graffiting a Muni bus. The juvenile resisted, but was taken into custody by our alert officer.

Geneva and Brookdale: Officers Miranda and Carreon spotted a car taken in a carjacking. They pursued the car until the suspect came to a home on Geneva, where he fled inside. He was taken into custody peacefully, with assistance of Daly City Police.

McLaren Park: Officers Gee and Alvarez were on patrol when they heard gunshots near the water tower. When they saw two cars leave the parking lot at a high rate of speed, they stopped the vehicles and discovered one of them was stolen. Three female suspects were arrested, including one who had outstanding warrants.

Sears and Sickle: Officers Kaprosch, Martinez and Wilson spotted a man breaking into a car. They arrested and searched him, and found he was also carrying rock cocaine paraphernalia.

100-Block of Alemany: Officers Fabiani and Fontenot spotted a known heroin user. The man took off running when he saw them, throwing drugs as he fled. The officers gave chase and arrested the man, recovering 11 bags of heroin.

Oxford and Pioche: Officers Bruce and Rodgers arrested a father who was trying to kill his children because he felt they had not cleaned the house properly. He tried to strangle one of the children, who escaped by jumping out a window with the other child.

Special Ballet Matinees

San Francisco Ballet announced three special matinees enabling students, seniors and other community organizations throughout the Bay Area to see performances at a reduced rate of $5.00 for every seat in the house.

Telesis Foundation has underwritten these special matinees at the War Memorial Opera House - Friday, February 24, Tuesday, February 28 and Tuesday March 7 at 11:30 a.m. - recognizing them as a unique opportunity for students to see ballet for the first time.

The Foundation's leadership contribution also enables S.F. Ballet to provide study guides to teachers to help them relate the theatre experience to academic disciplines. Guides include notes on the ballet, articles about the represented composer, a basic introduction to ballet positions and suggested activities.

Groups of students, seniors and other community organizations may purchase tickets at the Ballet Box Office in the War Memorial Opera House with valid student/senior I.D. The Ballet Box Office, located at 301 Van Ness Ave. at Grove St., is open Monday through Saturday, 12 noon to 6 p.m. Wheelchair access is available by special arrangement with the Box Office. For ticket information only, call 865-2000.

S.F. Library Honors Black History Month

From a special video program highlighting legendary singer Marian Anderson to an award ceremony for the City's unsung heros, S.F. Public Library celebrates Black History month in February with dozens of free events for all ages.

Storyteller Awayla Makeba will be at the Visitacion Valley Branch Library, 45 Leland Ave. (337-4790) on Wednesday, February 15 at 10:30 a.m. for children ages six and older. Other Valley Branch events during February will include: *Preschool Storytime* for ages 3 to 5 on Wednesday, February 1 at 10 and 10:45 a.m.; *Video Programs* on Wednesday, February 8 for children ages 3 to 5 at 10 and 10:45 a.m. with a program for ages 6 and older at 3:30 p.m.; and *Black History Month Crafts* on Wednesday, February 22 for children ages 3 to 5 at 10 and 10:45 a.m. with crafts for ages 8 and older at 3:30 p.m.

The Anderson program kicks off a *Salute to African Americans in the Arts* series to be held Thursdays at 12 noon in the Lurie Room of the Main Library at Civic Center. Alvin Ailey's Dance Theatre, Nina Simone and Joe Williams will each be featured in 60 minute, large screen video shows.

Drawing on the rich oral tradition of the American South, storytellers Anita Jones and Kellmar help launch a host of children's activities - along with the Wajumbe Children'a Cultural Ensemble - at an *Open House* at the Western Addition Branch, 1550 Scott St. on Saturday, February 4 at 2 p.m.

Sharing the occasion will be an exhibit by young artists from *Culture on the Corner*, a program that encourages children to express themselves through art and market what they create.

Wajumbe Children's Cultural Ensemble appears again at the Bayview-Anna E. Waden Branch at 5075 Third St. on Wednesday, February 15 at 4 p.m.

Other youth programs throughout the month include storyteller and dollmaker Karen McKie, and storytellers Makeba, Marijo, Belinde Sullivan and Yolanda Rhodes who will present unique children's programs at different branches throughout the city.

New Library Meetings

Some monthly meetings of the S.F. Library Commission, which meets the first Tuesday of each month, will be held at several neighborhood branches in 1995.

"We really encourage everyone to participate in these meetings," said Jim Herlihy, commission president. "The more accessible we make ourselves, the better we'll know what the people want for their library system."

National Park Service Events

Call for reservations and information.

FORT FUNSTON

**Dig In!*: Restore the habitat of the bank swallow, 9:30 a.m., February 4 (239-2366).

**Military History*: Learn what the fort was like when the Army occupied it, 11 a.m. February 11 (239-2366).

**Native Tounque - Stones About Plants*: Projects suited for children ages 4 to 10, 10 a.m. February 11 (239-2366).

**Nature Art*: Parent participation program for children ages 4 to 6, 1 p.m. February 12 (556-8642).

FORT POINT

**Candlelight Tour*: 6:30 p.m. February 4, 18 (556-1874).

FORT MASON CENTER

**Free Museum Day*: 12 noon to 8 p.m. February 2 (441-3400).

**Walking Tour*: 11 a.m. February 11, 25 (441-5706).

OCEAN BEACH

**Adopt-a-Beach*: Help clean Ocean Beach, 10:30 a.m. February 18 (239-2366).

PRESIDIO

**Architecture and Cultural Landscape*: 1 p.m. February 11 (556-0865).

**Battery Chamberlin Tour*: 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. February 4 (556-0865).

**Cemetery Walk*: Tour the S.F. National Cemetery. 10:30 a.m. February 12 (556-0865).

**Invasion Discussion*: Walk the Coastal Trail and learn how the Golden Gate was guarded, 10 a.m. February 11 (556-0865).

**Main Post Historical Walk*: 10 a.m. February 4, 12, 18, 19, 26 (556-0865).

**Mountain Lake to Fort Point Hike*: 10 a.m. February 11 (556-0865).

**On Shaky Ground*: 1906 Earthquake at the Presidio Museum, 11 a.m. February 12 (556-0865).

**Patriotism and Prejudice*: Japanese-American intelligence officers were crucial in World War II, even as their families were interned in wartime camps. See where both actions began, 1 p.m. February 25 (556-0865).

**Pedaling the Presidio*: Cycle through time by bicycle - helmet and water required, 10 a.m. February 5, 18, 26 (556-0865).

**Streets of the Presidio*: How Presidio streets were named, 10 a.m. February 25 (556-0865).

**A Walk on the Wild Side*: Learn about plants, animals and geology, 10 a.m. February 12 (556-0865).

SUTRO HEIGHTS PARK

**Park Stroll*: Join a walking tour, 11 a.m. February 19 (239-2366).

S.F. City Hall Closing for Retrofit

By Mayor Frank Jordan

City Hall is Moving! City Hall underwent major damage during the 1989 Loma Prieta Earthquake. We are now ready to begin the retrofit process of this historic landmark.

On March 1, 1995, City Hall will officially close while the building is being retrofitted. More than 22 city departments and 1,300 employees will be relocated to city buildings throughout the Civic Center area.

Several of the offices, including the Mayor's Office and the Board of Supervisors, will move across the street to the Veterans Building at 401 Van Ness Ave. The Courts will move to 633 Folsom St.

Moving one's personal belongings is always an enormous task. Imagine moving 300,000 square feet of office equipment and files - some of which has not been moved since 1915, when City Hall originally opened.

We are going to do everything possible to make the transition as smooth as possible and to do our best to inform the public about when and where we will be moving.

Some of the ways in which we are spreading the word about our new offices include:

**Move Hotline*: San Franciscans can call 554-4040 for a complete listing of the new locations of those city departments which have been temporarily relocated. The information will be available in English, Spanish and Chinese. Banners displaying the hotline have been placed on each side of City Hall.

**Move List*: A listing of when and where each department will be moving is available to the public at all City Hall offices.

**On-Site Displays*: Posters are displayed at the entrances of each City Hall office explaining where and when the office will be moving.

**Postmark Message*: A message with the Move Hotline number is posted on each piece of mail that is sent through the City's mailing system.

**Public Service Announcements*: The Mayor's Office is working with several local television and radio stations to produce public service announcements to publicize the relocation and the hotline.

I strongly urge members of the comunity to call the Move Hotline - 554-4040. Since offices will be relocating to a variety of different sites, the hotline will be an invaluable resource for citizens needing to conduct business in City Hall.

S.F. CITY HALL RELOCATIONS

Now at: 633 Folsom St.: Superior Courts (from 575 Polk St. and City Hall), Jury Assembly, Municipal Courts, Sheriff & Bailiffs, Registrar of Voters, Purchaser; 44 Gough St.: Human Resources ERD & Services; 575 Polk St.: Small Claims Court; 875 Stevenson St.: DPW Personnel and Payroll; 30 Van Ness Ave.: DPW OFFMA Computer & Staff & BOA Storage.

Moving February 3: 875 Stevenson St.: Assessor, Recorder, Tax Collector, Treasurer.

Moving February 10: 44 Gough St.: Human Resources; 1155 Market St: PUC; 875 Stevenson St.: DPW - OFFMA/BSM/ Director, Permit Appeals, Reproduction/ Mail (partial).

Moving February 17: 875 Stevenson St.: Assessment Appeals Board, Controller (from 240 Van Ness Ave. and City Hall), Reproduction/ Mail (partial); Veterans Building: Board of Supervisors, CAO's Office, Civil Service, Convention Facilities, Ethics Commission, Hearing Room 282, Mayor's Office (to Room 336).

Moving February 24: Army St.: DPW Building Maintenance; Fox Plaza: City Attorney; 875 Stevenson St.: DPW Custodial; Veterans Building: Law Library.

Five Years Ago In the Grapevine

FEBRUARY 1990

*About 93 acres of San Bruno Mountain known as *Owl* and *Buckeye Canyons* were purchased by the State of California for preservation as open space where nature would be undisturbed.

*More than 40 grade school students were accompanied by Violeta Galvan, Josette Williams and several instructors on an exciting field trip to the Bay Area Discovery Museum.

*New power lines and breakers were installed on Tunnel Ave., minimizing the area's darkness.

*Carla Stitt, formerly of the defunct *Gatti Nursery* on Britton St., opened *Carla's Plant Care*.

*Local residents could apply for work as census takers in their neighborhood.

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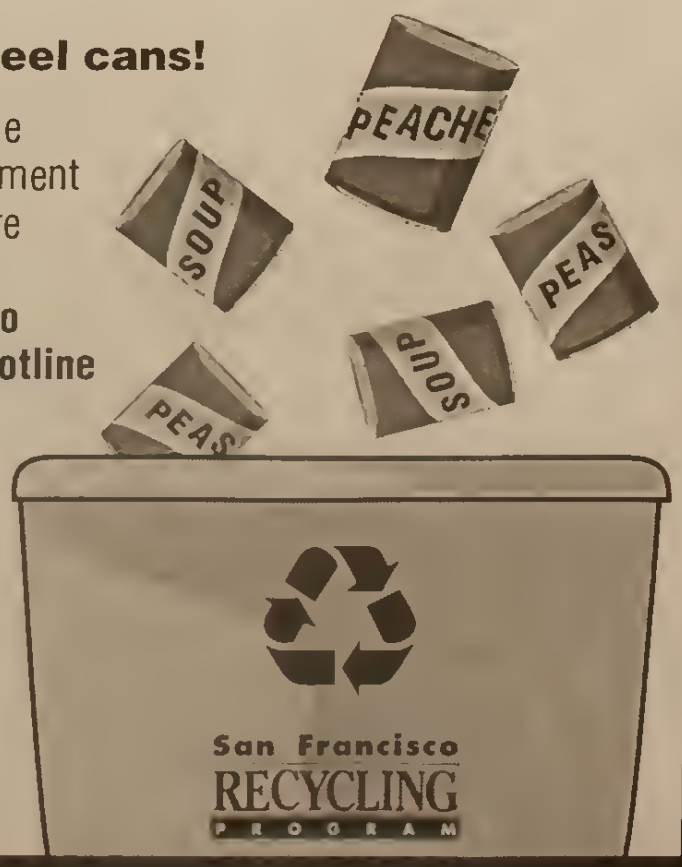
Did You Know?

Steel is America's most recycled material! More steel is recycled annually than glass, paper, plastic, aluminum and other metals combined!

- What we commonly call tin cans are actually steel cans coated with a thin layer of tin.
- San Francisco residents recycled more than 2 million pounds of steel cans last year.
- Rinsed steel cans are easy to recycle. They don't need to be flattened and you don't have to remove labels.

Recycle your steel cans!

Use your curbside blue bin or your blue apartment recycling bin. For more recycling information, call the **San Francisco Recycling Program Hotline at 554-6193.**



Are Women More Honest Than Men?

Are women more honest than men? When it comes to finding cash left at an automated teller machine (ATM), the answer appears to be *yes*, according to a recent U.S. study commissioned by Cirrus Systems, Inc. When asked, only 22 percent of the women, versus 33 percent of the men, said they would keep cash left at an ATM.

"In general, women tend to be more honest than men," said David Bersoff, Ph.D., professor of psychology at the University of Pennsylvania, whose dissertation and ongoing research focuses on stealing behavior. "However, while women may be more honest, that does not mean that women have stronger morals than men, it just means they are more empathetic. Women may feel sorry for the person who lost the money, whereas men might act more impulsively."

While gender was the primary factor determining what people would do with the cash, also influencing responses was age and region in which they live. Among the most honest of the respondents were those 55 and older, and those from the South, while the younger respondents (16 to 34) and Easterners were most inclined to keep cash found at an ATM.

Other notable findings include:

Who owns ATM cards?

Of the adults surveyed in 1994, 65 percent have ATM cards and know their personal identification numbers (PIN), up from 56 percent in 1993. Those most likely to own an ATM card are between the ages of 25 and 34, married, college graduates, with a combined household income of $35,000 or more.

How much do we withdraw from ATMs?

The average dollar amount withdrawn from an ATM using an ATM card is $53. When consumers use a credit card at an ATM to obtain a cash advance, the average withdrawl almost triples to $123.

How often do we use ATMs?

In 1994, ATM cardholders used their cards an average of 6.47 per month, up from 1993 when cardholders visited the ATMs 6.1 times per month.

"As research shows, consumers today increasingly rely on ATMs for their banking needs," said G. Henry Mundt III, president and CEO of Cirrus Systems, Inc. "ATMs in global networks such as the MasterCard/ Cirrus ATM Network provide cardholders with cash access 24 hours a day, and local currency at favorable exchange rates, virtually anywhere in the world."

Heavy Alcohol Use Linked to Cancer

Heavy Alcohol Use Linked to Cancer

Chemical Awareness and Treatment Services is offering a free article focusing on the relationship between heavy alcohol consumption and increased risk of cancer. *Alcohol and Cancer* explains how heavy drinking may provide a mechanism for development of certain forms of this disease. It is available by calling 241-1199.

Free Glaucoma Screenings

Health Center #3 at 1525 Silver Ave will be offering a day of free glaucoma screenings Saturday, February 4 from 9:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. Space is limited and appointments are necessary.

Glaucoma strikes one in seven people and is the leading cause of adult blindness in this country. It attacks the eye by means of a constant pressure behind the eye cells and fibers. When this pressure is allowed to continue untreated, tunnel vision can occur and lead to partial or total blindness. If diagnosed early on, the progress of glaucoma can be halted.

Space can be reserved by calling the health center at 715-0310.

Proposed Curfew

From Page 1

Some people saw it as a move in the right direction that should have come much sooner. Others maintained a wait-and-see posture. In a number of isolated cases, observers have viewed the curfew initiative as *one of those political gimmicks autocratic.*

John King, a member of the Visitacion Valley Task Force (VVTF), has expressed caution on the proposal. Maintaining a posture of optimism, he said, "I do surely hope that this curfew law initiative makes it through the legislative mills of the city. It's high time that the police beef up its muscles to keep the bad elements from the domain of peace-loving citizens of the city."

An administrator of the John King Senior Center on Leland Ave. (not far from McLaren Park), King has contributed a great deal to the success of the VVTF. During the January 19 meeting of VVTF with Bradley, he inquired from VVTF liason Deedra Jackson about the HUD and City Hall joint project for Geneva Towers in particular, and Visitacion Valley in general.

King failed to share with the *Grapevine* the definite word on the issues. Your reporter reached Jackson the following morning and learned her office had not yet confirmed anything with the Redevelopment Agency on the economic package for the Valley.

Asked if the current political activity of HUD Representative Art Agnos could adversely affect the future of the Valley and Geneva Towers, Jackson said, "Not at all!" She assured the *Grapevine*, "The Geneva Towers are definitely going down. It could be in a month's time. It could be two months. It could take a little longer."

VVTF first saw *light of day* on February 17, 1994 when Anthony Lincoln, director of the Mayors Office of Children, Youth and Their Families, officially welcomed prospective VVTF members. The organization started its legal existence a week later on February 25 when Mayor Frank Jordan administered the members' oath of office.

Agnos was resource speaker when VVTF met during its first business meeting on March 1, 1994. It was Agnos who said no less than $110 million could be coming to the Valley. As days turned into weeks and weeks turned into months, meeting after meeting, Visitacion Valley residents learned the amount was dwindling rapidly. As of last word, no more than than $80 million could be given.

What happens next - notwithstanding the assurance of Jackson that Geneva Towers would come down and be replaced soon and that economic development in the Valley would be achieved - still appears to be nebulous. Your reporter - who happens to be a VVTF member - is keeping his fingers crossed.

Composting Workshop Sponsored by SLUG

Turn your fruit, vegetable and yard trimmings into a rich soil for your garden and house plants by composting them. Learn how to compost by attending a free hands-on composting workshop 10 a.m. to 12 noon on either Saturday, February 11 or 25.

Workshops are conducted by the S.F. League of Urban Gardeners (SLUG) and will be held at SLUG's *Garden for the Environment* in the Sunset district at Lawton and 7th Aves. Call SLUG's *Compost Hotline* at 285-7585 for reservations and more information.

GOOD NEIGHBOR

Good neighbor Dominic from Arleta Ave. recently saw an *Amigo* cart abandoned on the street by his home and thought it might have belonged to local artist Joseph Porter, author of the Grapevine's past *Ciao Pinin* series. Dominic came by the Visitacion Valley Community Center to see if the staff could contact Joe and check on his well-being.

Joe was fine and his *Amigo* safe in his garage. The indomitable Dominic left, vowing to report his discovery to the authorities in hopes of finding its owner before the vehicle could be stripped by the less charitable.

Good luck, Dominic! We love the good guys!

Julie Kavanagh

PROPOSED CURFEW LAW

Purpose of the curfew law is to protect the youth and provide them with access to services as well as to stem the rise in violence caused by juveniles.

This proposed curfew would apply to minors under the age of 17. It would make it unlawful for any minor under 17 to be in or on any public street, public park or any other public place between midnight (12:01 a.m.) and 5 a.m. on Saturday and Sunday, the period covering the weekend; and between 11 p.m. and 5 a.m. the following day on Sunday, Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. There are various exceptions, such as when the minor is accompanied by a parent or legal guardian or has expressed parental permission, the minor is participating in a religious, educational or political activity, or when the minor is engaged in an emergency misison.

When a minor is picked up for curfew violation, he or she will be taken to a central facility. If a parent or legal guardian appears at this central facility, the minor will be released to that person.

A parent or legal guardian of a minor picked up for curfew violation will receive a notice requiring the attendance of the parent or legal guardian at a time and place to be determined by the Juvenile Probation Department.

A central facility would be staffed by people from community based organizations, juvenile probation, social workers, crisis intervention personnel and police officers. When a minor is taken to the central facility, it will be determined if the minor is eligible, meaning that there is no other violation or condition making the receiving facility an inappropriate setting.

If the minor is ineligible, he or she will be transported to the appropriate site, including Youth Guidance Center and General Hospital. If contact with a parent or guardian has not previously been made, attempts will be continued from the central facility.

Minors at the facility will receive a variety of educational and recreational activities. Staff will assess the needs of incoming youth and attempt to determine the reason for curfew violation.

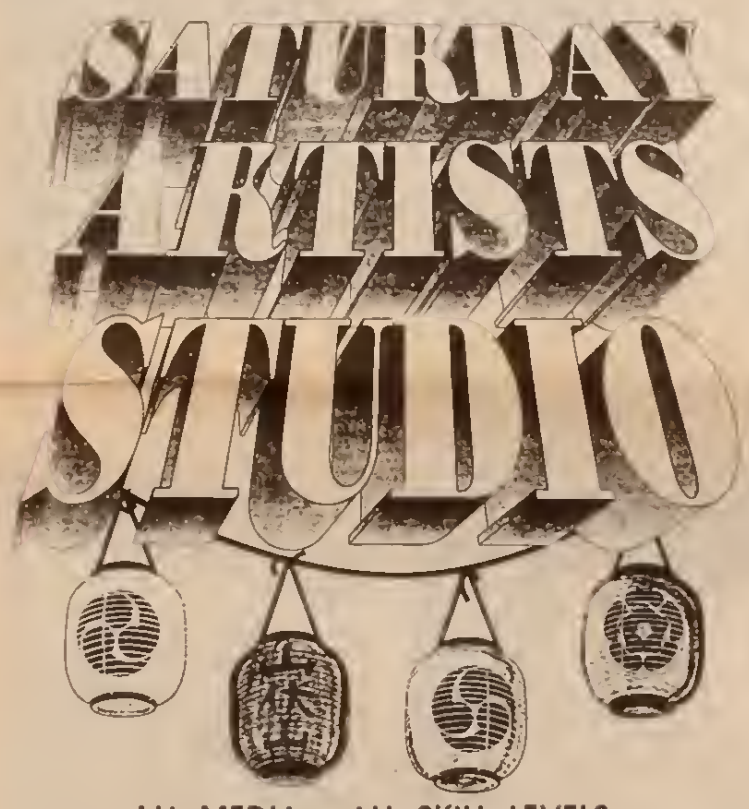
Where appropriate, such as in the case of abuse or neglect, referrals and reports will be made. When a parent does pick up a minor, staff will discuss the violation and make any appropriate referrals. The parent will also sign a notice to appear at a future hearing regarding the matter.

Lead city agency would be the Juvenile Probation Department. This department will issue an RFP for community organizations as well as supervise the program, and will be involved in youth and family counseling, tracking statistics and performing administrative work as required.

On-site personnel will be permanently assigned to assure continuity and develop trust with youth, family and treatment providers. Aside from the assigned personnel from community based organizations and departments, other city departments will participate on an as-needed basis.

The philosophy of the curfew program is to contact those minors who are knowingly violating the ordinance. It is not intended to interfere with minors who are lawfully out during curfew. Officers should contact those minors who are obviously underage and appear to have no legitimate purpose on the street. Officers should not conduct traffic stops for the purpose of curfew violations.

While there is an obvious fear any curfew program can be administered unfairly, it is hoped that with specific guidelines for the police, retention of statistics and oversight by the community, any problems can be promptly addressed.



ALL MEDIA - ALL SKILL LEVELS
10:00 AM - 2:00 PM
VISITACION VALLEY COMMUNITY CENTER
50 RAYMOND AVENUE - NEAR BAYSHORE
467-6400

IMPORTANT NOTICE TO
LOW INCOME SAN FRANCISCO HOMEOWNERS

The city has 3% interest deferred loans for qualified homeowners to make improvements to their home. If you have owned your home for one year and are low income, you may be eligible.

Improvements may include: roofing, electrical and plumbing upgrades, foundation, structural, pest control, replacement of doors and windows, painting, handicap accessibility, etc.

IF YOUR HOME IS IN NEED OF THESE KINDS OF IMPROVEMENTS, PLEASE CALL US, OR STOP IN NOW FOR MORE INFORMATION!

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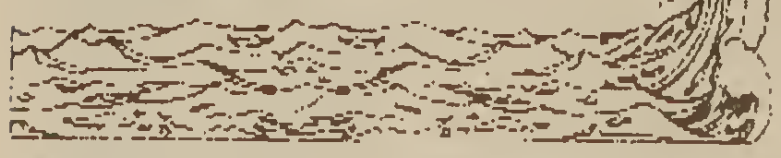
Joyce Hollins & Staff

Wedding of the Waters

By Craig Carrozzi



Having secured inexpensive lodging in Leticia, Colombia for the evening, adventurer Craig Carrozzi had stopped for a drink while patiently waiting for the Brazilian consulate to open.

LETICIA (PART 3)

I finished the beer and walked the remaining two blocks to the consulate. I entered a plain, functional office. As I closed the screen door, three men turned and eyed me. Two of them, tall and white, appeared to be European or American.

The third man was spare and dark, with an impeccably groomed Vandyke beard and officious countenance. The dark man greeted me in Portuguese, but switched to Spanish when I responded in that tongue.

He quickly divined the reason for my visit and beckoned me to come and sit by his desk on the other side of the office. I did so. Then he took a seat, and with practiced assurance slid two visa application forms across the desk while simultaneously explaining that I would need to give him three photographs.

"And also," he said, "I will need your passport overnight in order to run a security check. And when you get your visa, if you get a visa, you will have to get stamped entry confirmation into Brazil from the police station in Tabatinga."

The guy speaks excellent Spanish, I thought. Clear and precisa. But what's all this bureaucratic bull he's getting on about? Why so much red tape for a lousy tourist visa? They didn't say anything about this in the Brazilian Embassy in Bogota.

"Look!" I said, flushing with irritation, "What's going on here? I am an American citizen with valid residence in Colombia and no criminal record. Why isn't my passport sufficient identification? I have a photo in the passport. I have no intention of staying in Brazil for a long time. They told me in the Brazilian Embassy I would only have to present my passport and everything would be arranged ... on the spot!"

"That was the case - a few months ago. But things have changed. Before I would have checked your passport and given you a tourist card, but not anymore. Now Americans need a visa to get into Brazil."

"Why?"

"For a number of reasons ... But mainly because your government has been making it tough on Brazilians to travel to the United States. So ..."

"Yeah, but look ..."

The consul gave a sympathetic cluck. "Sorry for the inconvenience, but it isn't my job to make regulations ... that is for the politicians in Brasilia. Now then, if you still want to get into Brazil, would you please hand over your passport and fill out the forms."

"Huh." I slid my passport across the desk. As he took it to an adjoining room, I glared at his retreating back. This is crazy, I thought. What a stupid farce. Maybe what this guy really wants is a bribe.

My ire mounted as I looked over the visa application forms; they requested the exact same information already contained in my passport. I snorted loudly and shook my head. This is too much, I thought. Fill out two duplicate forms and they don't even have a lousy sheet of carbon paper. What a pain-in-the-ass to cross an imaginary line in the middle of nowhere. I got a mind to forget Brazil and go to Peru instead. I don't need a visa there. Ah, don't be ridiculous.

I filled out the forms. On finishing, I looked up and noticed the other two men sitting quietly on a bench beneath a finely detailed map of the Amazonas region. For the first time, I examined them. Instantly my vexation subsided. A broad smile creased my face. I restrained myself from laughing aloud. The men were garbed in classic *Hollywood* jungle fashion with matching khaki designer outfits and pith helmets. The *Great White Hunters*, I thought. If they were carrying elephant guns, I might mistake them for props in a low budget Tarzan movie.

The shorter of the two men made eye contact and grinned back at me, perceiving my smile as a gesture of freindship. He arose and strode over to introduce himself. A barrel-chested man with wide shoulders, a firm jaw and a shock of curly black hair.

"Are ... you ... American?" he asked with an accent that was clearly stateside English.

"Yes, I am."

His face lit up and he stuck out his hand. "Me too," he said, squeezing my hand hard. "And my friend back there, also. I figured you were American because of your blue passport and those tenis shoes."

"You were right."

"What brings you to these parts?"

"Oh, I'm on vacation here ... But I live in Colombia."

"Yeah, you work for a company?"

"Yeah, sort of ... I'm in the Peace Corps."

"Peace Corps, huh. That must be a hell of a thing to do ..."

He really sounds impressed, I thought. Maybe he's a patriot who trusts implicity in those hoaky television commercials from the mid-sixties. If only he knew ...

He continued to ask me a string of personal questions. His nosiness was irritating me. For some reason, I felt pressured.

"Hell," he said slapping his outsized head, "here we are talking away and don't even know each other's names. Mine is Bobby. And this guy here is my partner and good buddy, Bill."

"My name is Craig," I said, without enthusiasm. I don't know, I thought. There's something about this guy I don't like.

Bill, a tall burly man with a sensitive face, came across the room and presented himself in a quiet way. His handshake was firm but soft, like slipping a hand into a velvet-lined work glove. Then Bill faded into the background as, with little encouragement from me, Bobby dominated the conversation. This is the kind of person, I thought, who would be described as loquacious if he's a friend - and as a big mouth bore if not.

"Yep," said Bobby, "me and Bill are owners of a restaurant in Anaheim, California - a very successful restaurant. We decided to come to the Amazon for a jungle safari and some red-blooded hell raising ..."

"Great."

"I tell you, the restaurant business is a real grind. Oh sure, we make the bucks all right, but we have to work our asses off to do it. We needed a break ... so, we want to experience something really memorable before we go back to earning a living. Ain't that right, Bill?"

Bill smiled. "You got it, Bobby."

I also smiled. Anaheim, huh, I thought. That's where Disneyland is ... Maybe they have the idea their safari will be something like *Pirates of the Carribean*. Let's see how serious this guy is.

"Hey, Bobby," I said. "If you're tired of working, why don't you join the Peace Corps?"

"Peace Corps? I don't know," said Bobby shaking his head. "Don't you have to live out in the sticks without any luxuries?"

"Not necessarily. Depends on your job and where you're sent."

"What do you do?"

"I work in a reform school in a small town. The job is no piece of cake, but my standard of living is good. The best I've ever enjoyed in my life. Of course, there are volunteers who live in primitive conditions, but most of them are in the countryside. The thing is, Peace Corps Colombia is a special casa."

"Why is that?" asked Bill.

"Because there's a lot of revolutionary activity. The honchos don't want to send the volunteers to isolated regions because they're worried about guerrillas kidnapping someone else. So, most of the volunteers work near or in big cities. And if you're near a big city in Colombia, you can get almost anything that's available in the States ... if you have the money."

"Wow, man, I didn't know that about Colombia. Sounds very interesting. But I still wouldn't join. I checked into it once and they don't pay enough for my tastes. I'm used to the good things in life." Bobby smiled, as if to console me. "I'm sure it's a good thing, man. But the bread just isn't there."

I smirked. "That's not why I joined. You see ..."

"O.K., I get you," said Bobby. "Help mankind and all that."

No, you don't get me, I thought. But that's cool.

Bobby was still babbling away. He confided to me that his Spanish was very good because he had taken it in high school.

"And," he said, "I know plenty about the culture of South American because I go to Mexico quite a bit. I've taken three vacations there in different places. Two weeks each time. Yep, you can pick up a lot hanging out in places like Cancun and Acapulco ..."

I wondered what he picked up - language, culture or syphilis. Probably all three.

"Yep," said Bobby, "I've been around some in Latin America. But you live here. How long have you been here?"

"A little more than a year."

"Maybe you can answer a few questions for me."

"I'll try."

"Isn't it true that all these Latin American customs officials are corrupt and easy as hell to bribe?"

I shrugged. "I've heard that. Probably so. I don't think their salaries are too good. You got a wife and six kids, well ... But I can't tell you for sure because I've never had to pay one off ... I guess it depends who you deal with."

"Yep, you got a point there," said Bobby. Then he lowered his voice and moved a step closer to me. "Say, what would the chances be of smuggling a pound or so of cocaine back to the United States?"

I wrinkled my nose. I knew he'd get around to that, I thought. Somehow, I just knew it.

"Man, I don't know. Depends on how slick you are ... And how you cope under pressure - knowing you have the stuff in your possession. I suppose if you shoved the stuff up your butt you might get away with it."

"Would you try it?"

"Me?" I chuckled. "I doubt it."

"Why not?"

"Mainly because I'm too chicken. And I don't have any rich relatives in the States. Besides, I KNOW what the Colombian prisons are like."

Bobby nodded agreement. "Yeah, it would be risky. What the hell, I make good money legit. But with a pound or two ... think of it. I could really set something up with that. It would be bitchin'."

I coughed into my hand in reply. This is a bore, I thought. He can do what he wants. But if he is gonna do it, he shouldn't talk so damn much ... The guy reminds me of that used car salesman who sold me that lemon. He wants something ... Where the hell is that consul man? I want to get out of here.

"Hey, guy," said Bobby. "Me and Bill have a great idea for a trip."

I rolled my eyes and kept silent.

"We're going to make a three day trip down the Amazon in a canoe," said Bobby. "A real jungle safari ... We'll be traveling on the Colombia side for the most part, and we're going up some of the inlets and to a genuine Indian Village. "We'll stay overnight there. Bitchin', huh! ... I've already arranged for a native guide and full provisions. It should be one hell of an adventure ..."

I nodded. "Sounds pretty good."

"Think you might want to come with us? We can always use another good man."

"How much would my share cost?"

"Not that much," said Bobby, his face showing the first sign of uncertainty.

"How much is *not that much?*"

"Only $200 dollars."

I almost swallowed my tongue. He's nuts, I thought.

"Only $200 dollars," I said. "That's half my money. I can't spend that on a three day trip."

"Yeah, but ..." Bobby's voice sputtered out. Both Bill and Bobby appeared crestfallen by my rejection of their offer - especially Bobby. His salesmanship is being put to the test, I thought.

"Look, man, I like your idea," I said in a soothing voice. "But I've been planning a trip to Manaus for a long time now. I'm more interested in the Brazilian side at this point in time. And like I said, I don't have that kind of money."

Bobby's smile looked forced. "Yeah, yeah, I get you. But this is the chance of a lifetime ... We wanted to head for Manaus, too. But the people around here have been telling us that it's a boring trip - the Amazon is too wide to see the jungle well on the way to Maneus."

"Could be, but ..."

"And you don't get to stop at any genuine Indian village either! ... Besides, me and Bobby have to get back to Anaheim soon. A boat trip to and from Manaus would take at least three weeks and we don't have the time."

I looked at my toes, ignoring Bobby's imploring face. Now what do I care if you have to get back to Anaheim or not? I thought. This guy's a trip.

I kept quiet.

Bobby took my silence as an invitation to continue his sales pitch. It went in one ear and out the other. His spiel sounded like a telephone recording. He went on and on. I was on the verge of saying something truly sarcastic to him when we were interrupted by the arrival of the consul. I turned to him with a smile, happy for an excuse to ignore Bobby.

"Is everything fine?" I asked. "When can I get my visa?"

The consul cocked his head and eyed me, as if unsure whether he were dealing with a sane person. I blushed. I deserve that look, I thought, for giving him a hard time.

"Sorry about earlier," I said. "I'm a little nervous."

Satisfied, the consul smiled. "You can pick up your visa in the morning provided you get the photos to us by five o'clock this afternoon."

"Good. Anything else?"

"Yes. We will have to keep your passport overnight. There are certain things that still need to be confirmed."

"What? You can't be serious ... You must know how dangerous it is to walk around in Colombia without proper identification."

"It's not that bad."

"Maybe not for you, but for me ... Man, they stop me all the time here. Without my identification, they could throw me in jail - if I'm lucky. Or worse, they could put me in the army. Then I'd truly have problems if they send me to fight the narcotics mafia."

The consul chuckled. "Don't worry. I will vouch for you if you happen to have problems. But you must have some other form of identification besides your passport."

"Yes, of course. I have a letter from D.A.S. (Colombia's equivalent of the F.B.I.) and another card from the embassy."

"Then?"

"Yes, but ... I've still been harassed on a number of occasions - even with my passport."

"Well, I don't believe you will have any problems here."

"No?" Easy for him to say, I thought. He's never been yanked off a bus in Pamplona and accused of being a Mormon subversive. "I don't know," I said. "I don't like the idea of leaving my passport."

"You have to ..."

"I have to ... O.K. then. I suppose it's better to risk one night in Leticia than go to Brazil as an illegal."

"That's certain, senor. There's a lot of narcotics and other contraband in Amazonas. Sometimes mistakes are made by ignorant or overzealous individuals."

I chatted with the consul about Brazil. He turned out to be a pleasant parson - certainly preferable to Bobby. He informed me that I could probably catch a boat to Manaus across the river in Benjamin Constant.

"Or," he said, "you might try your luck in Tabatinga at the Brazilian Air Force base. Too bad you don't speak Portuguese ... They sometimes give free flights to people who know how to ask correctly."

Whatever that means, I thought.

The consul led me to the map of Amazonas and pointed to some places of interest. Bobby came over and butted into the conversation; he did speak some Spanish. The consul helped things along with a few words of serviceable English. Bobby traced the course of his proposed safari on the map. The consul said that the same kind of adventure could be had on the Brazilian side. Bobby told the consul what he had told me earlier. The consul politely disagreed. I stepped away from them alongside Bill, who understood little, if any Spanglish. Bill and I spoke of other things. I liked Bill. He struck me as a thoughtful, sincere person who chose his words carefully. His large size and dignified bearing made me think of a benign Panda. I wondered how he had become mixed-up with a blow-hard like Bobby.

"I just wanted you to know," said Bill, "that if your travel plans aren't concrete yet, and you would like to come on our safari ... you are more than welcome."

"Why thanks, man. But you see, my plans are concrete. I just haven't worked out the details."

"All right, but if things don't work out ..."

"Yeah, I'll catainly keep it in mind."

I looked at Bobby. He was still gabbing with the consul. Time to make my escape, I thought.

"Well," I said, interrupting him, "I've got many things to take care of. Take it easy. *Hasta luego.*"

Just as I reached the door, Bobby, who had rushed across the room, grabbed my right arm. I shrugged him off.

"Think over what I said, huh," he told me. "We're staying at the Hotel San Jorge. Stop by tonight or tomorrow - for a beer or something. We Americans should stick together."

"All right, dude. Later."

I strode across the central tourist area without looking back. We Americans should stick together, huh, I thought. Maybe so. But I don't trust you, Bobby. I don't like your plastic smile or your jive words. Now then, time to get those stupid photos for the visa.

The consul had mentioned a place near the docks where I could have my picture taken "almost instantly." I wandered around for a spell without finding it. Either his directions had been too vague or I misunderstood them. I finally ran into the familiar taxi row of the morning. The river was in front of me. I cut through a line of palm trees and high hedges. The great expanse of the Amazon River came into full view, shimmering in the dappled sunlight. For a moment, I stood transfixed, wondering when and where the beckoning water would take me. Then I shook my head and looked closer to shore. Off to my right, the river was clogged with boats - luxary racers with gleaming outboard motors, yachts, small launches, canoes paddled by bare chested men, barges and a variety of mangy scows. Looming starkly behind this innocuous collection was a peeling grey destroyer of World War II vintage. Ah, I thought, the resolute protector of Colombian sovereignity. But a real eyesore.

I frowned and shifted my gaze to the bank and on to the main dock area. It hummed with activity. Scores of stevedores were at work, loading and unloading an impressive assortment of plant, animal and manufactured produce. Incoming and outgoing passengers, staggering under bundles like worker ants, dodged in and around the stevedores. A boat came in or pulled out seemingly every minute.

Between my vantage point and the dock was an unpaved rutted street that tumbled precipitously to the water's edge; it was lined on each side by a hodgepodge of rickety stalls - stalls fairly bristling with merchandise of any sort imaginable, even Sony televisions and bark arrow quivers. Raucous entreaties of *a la orden* filled the air. This is what I'm looking for, I thought. The main market. Leticia's *San Andrecito*. There has to be a photographer here.

I scraped through some scrub brush and started down the street. I peered into stalls and asked the proprietors where a photographer could be found. Nobody seemed to know. The more helpful ones offered to make a Polaroid shot of me for a healthy fee. I had almost reached the dock when I paused and took a good long look up and down the street. Suddenly from behind, I felt someone bump my back with a shoulder and a hand make a clumsy stab for my wallet. I pivoted forcefully and my hip slammed into a body. A young woman sprawled past me, empty-handed. She rose in a flash and sprinted up the street. My derisive laughter followed her. "You have to be quicker than that," I yelled in Spanish.

From a distance, she turned and cursed at me in Portuguese. Her face looked wild and attractive, her body was slim and athletic. Invective, which I couldn't understand, poured from her mouth. Her breasts heaved and her long dark hair streamed across her flashing eyes.

My adrenalin was up. "You better find a new career," I called, and made a motion as if to chase her.

She snarled a last insult and disappeared into a crush of people.

A *brasileira*, I thought. The Colombians are supposed to be the thieves. Huh. And an amateur at that. Even if she got my wallet, there's almost nothing in it. A real thief usually distinguishes a good target ... Oh well, maybe she was hungry. If I hadn't been gawking around looking for a damn photographer, she probably wouldn't have made the attempt ... Got to stay alert in these markets.

Resuming my quest, I reached the dock without finding a trace of a photography studio. I shook my head in puzzlement and started back up the street thinking I might try one of the big hotels. I had almost reached the top of the incline when I glanced to the left and saw, in plain sight in the middle of the street, an elderly man fiddling with an antique tripod mounted camera. Where was he when I passed by here before? I thought. What's his problem?

I tapped him on the shoulder and said, "Excusa me." Nothing; he concentrated on the bucket. "How are you doing? I need some photos for a visa." I moved around in front of him.

He refused to look at me and the set expression on his face was anything but friendly. Anger welled up in me. I stood my ground. Let's see who gives in, I thought.

After a few moments, he finally looked up and gave me a disgusted glance, then he stared into the bucket. "I am very busy right now," he said, keeping his eyes in the bucket. "I have many clients waiting. Why don't you come back in 30 minutes - or more."

Clients?, I thought. Where? Two people ... Maybe I should ask him if he has a friend who's less occupied. Nah, better not antagonize the old buzzard. He might be the only one who can help me on such short notice.

"Very well," I said. "I understand. I'll be back in a short while."

He grunted. Damn fool, I thought. He ought to learn something about customer relations. Or many he just don't like gringos. Hell with him ...

I stalked away from the market and meandered to the outskirts of town, finally coming to a road that seemed to lead into the bush. Then I saw a sign that said: *Tabatinga 5 kilometros.* Huh, nothing better to do, I thought. Maybe I should go and check out this place. Could be a photographer there...

A taxi pulled up and the driver asked me if I needed a lift. Without further thought, I jumped in and we were off. About three kilometers down the road I saw the Tabatinga police station. I told the driver to stop. Might as well find out what kind of papers I need from these guys.

I entered the station and was greeted by a swarthy man with a thick bushy beard.

See Page 5

WEDDING OF THE WATERS

First editions of the critically acclaimed *Wedding of the Waters* are still available in very limited number for $10 each. Send payment to: *Visitacion Valley Grapevine*, 50 Raymond Ave., San Francisco, CA 94134.

Book Tells How to Prevent, Stop, Beat and Survive Forclosure

Purandar Ambalal, a leading national expert in property economics and master of the forclosure game, has written a incisive expose on the methodology for borrowers to save themselves from this horrible event - beginning with the first point of purchase. *Forclosure: How to Prevent, Stop, Beat and Survive* makes available inside knowledge, financial savvy and an accumulation of data from more than 16 years in advisory capacity to individuals and corporations.

In the past, the average person had nowhere to turn for help in dealing with banks, savings institutions, government or other lien holders; and in fact, was held hostage to the whim of the creditor. For most, there was no positive solution to the dilemma.

Ambalal's book is a step-by step guide instructing forclosure victims on ways to beat creditors at their own game. Easy to read and simple to follow, his book tells the facts about forclosure and spells out avoidable pitfalls. His techniques have been tested by years of hands-on experience in salvaging assets and dreams of property owners facing financial ruin.

Featured in the book are: legal ways to halt forclosure proceedings; negotiation strategies to control lenders; how to market your property without being in distress; aiming device by which to call the shots; what to say and when to say it; how to overcome bad credit and increase your credit line; and smart bankruptcy tactics. *Forclosure* also includes all forms and instructions necessary to effectively deal with forclosure protocol.

Forclosure: How to Prevent, Stop, Beat and Survive is available in paperback from: OM SAI Publications, P.O. Box 66907, Arcadia, CA 91066-9893 ($24.95 + $2.75 S&H + Tax).

School Volunteers Assist In Reading Program

San Francisco School Volunteers will will take part in the Sixth National African American *Read-in Chain* February 6 at several district elementary schools. If you can spare an hour or so that morning and would like to read to a class, please call 274-0250.

Orientation and training for new S.F. school volunteers will take place February 25, 9 a.m. to 12 noon at New Traditions Elementary School, 2049 Grove St. Workshops will include: math games for elementary school students, diversity in the classroom and teaching a child to read.

Wedding of the Waters

From Page 4

"Do you speak Spanish?" I asked, still unwilling to have my fledging Portuguese ridiculed.

He shook his head emphatically, "No, I don't speak Spanish."

Feeling somewhat flustered, I pulled out my identification cards and, as best I could, explained that I needed confirmation for entry into Brazil.

He gazed speculatively at me, turned the I.D. cards in his hands to better exaine them, and finally asked, "You are American?"

I nodded. He turned in his chair and called to an unseen person. From the rear office came a slim, blond young man with a preoccupied air about him. He came to the front desk and eyed me through horn-rimmed glasses.

"Do you speak Spanish - or English?" I asked.

Again the emphatic shake of the head, accompanied by a distastaful frown. The bearded man spoke rapidly to him in Portuguese. I understood words, but the meaning eluded me. The blond man examined my I.D. cards. From time to time he looked up to give me a sharp glance. I responded with twisted smiles. What's with this guy? I thought. He reminds me of a damned Gestapo agent. Must be secret police.

"You are American?" he asked. "Living in Colombia?"

"Exactly."

"That is very irregular."

"Is it?" I shrugged. "I am from the *Peace Corps*."

"Ah, I see."

His manner became less condescending, though not any friendlier. He explained to me, speaking slowly, that he would have to see my visa before he could verify my entry.

"It is in the Brazilian Consulate in Leticia," I said. "Can't you call there? Then you can give me something ... so I don't have to come back tomorrow."

"No, I can't do that. Return tomorrow with the visa and everything will be arranged. Now that we know you, the process will be expedited."

"All right, thanks. Bye." I got up. Man, I thought, I wouldn't want to have any trouble with that guy.

I left the station and began walking to Tabatinga. A sign posted near the station told me the town was two kilometers more. I stopped, thinking to flag down a taxi. A car pulled up; it was full of Colombians headed for Leticia. They offered me a lift. I hesitated. What should I do? I thought. A taxi costs $20 *pesos* or $15 *cruzeiros*. Twice. That's two beers ... I climbed into the car. Tabatinga can wait until tomorrow, I thought.

Continued Next Month

Neighborhood Knows How to Recycle

The *Get It, Got It* recyling campaign promoting residential recycling in the southern half of the City (Bayview, Hunters Point, Excelsior, Mission, OMI and Visitacion Valley) has brought in significant additional quantities of recyclables and is having a lasting impact on recycling participation. During the three month campaign, the volume of recyclables collected in these neighborhoods increased by 20,000 pounds as recycling participation increased by five percent. This campaign helped convince at least 1,500 households to begin recycling as more than 1,000 households sent in recycling cards to win a pair of tickets to a Giants game.

The most dramatic increase in participation was in the Bayview where the volume of recyclables reversed a decline to climb to a seven percent increase by the last month of the campaign. This increase held beyond the end of the promotion, with the volume of collected recyclables the month after the campaign ended showing a significant five percent increase.

More than 58,000 Giants bilingual recycling cards were distributed during the campaign, including 20,000 cards distributed door-to-door by the Bayview/ Hunters Point Youth Services and the Columbia Park Boys Club. More than 10,000 households were called during the campaign by neighborhood youth to talk about recycling and answer questions.

No Veggies for Pets

While a vegetarian lifestyle may be favored by some humans, their companion animals shouldn't be subjected to such apparently healthful fare, said Dr. C.B. Chastain, associate dean for academic affairs at the University of Missouri College of Veterinary Medicine.

A new trend recently emerging finds pet owners imposing a diet rich in grain and vegetables and devoid of any meat on their carnivorous companions. Well-meaning owners may be doing more harm than good to the animals, according to Chastain.

While humans are physiologically equipped to handle an all-vegetable diet, dogs and cats have a short intestinal tract that contains special enzymes to break down animal protein rather than plants, making it difficult for them to digest vegetables. They also lack the ability to extract some vitamins from vegetables.

Chastain recommends pet owners stick with commercial pet foods which contain meat, meat byproducts and some grain or vegetable material.

-AVMA

Finishing touches of a job well done

Valley Clean-Up Day

From Page 1

A series of follow-up planning meetings was announced and organizers' phone numbers were posted.

NETWORKING

Committed individuals within Visitacion Valley Middle School (VVMS), the Community Center, Family Support Center, Geneva Towers, Sunnydale Girls' After-School Academy, Camp Fire Boys and Girls, YMCA-AmeriCorps, Visitacion Valley Elementary School and other neighborhood organizations began personal contacts with all possible sources of support. Agencies, merchants, churches, corporations and individuals were informed about the event and encouraged to contribute in some manner.

Local media were contacted and asked to announce the event. Through ever-broadening ripples, *networking* worked its magic. Everyone contacted seemed to have something to contribute, know someone who could contribute or know know someone who knew someone who could contribute.

In this manner, responses started pouring in ... the Department of Recreation and Parks, Clean City Coalition, NorCal and Sunset Scavenger offered concrete assistance with clean-up details; Tuntex USA and Sunset Scavenger offered financial assistance; the First Congregational Church of Samoa, Bell Markets/ Cala Foods, Walgreens and a handful of individuals made donations of money and materials.

Home Depot donated shovels, gloves, rakes, pails and other supplies, many of which can be reused in the future for similar activities. And perhaps most important, students charged up by teachers and by each other with enthusiasm for and commitment to the clean-up effort began to tell their parents, families, cousins and friends.

CELEBRATION

Viewed by organizers as an opportunity to celebrate *community*, the event featured a bongo drummer, a school band and a rapper performing at various intervals. There were helium-filled balloons and face-painting.

Contact with Sunset Scavenger linked event organizers with Al Macari, a retired sanatation engineer who lives in the Valley and now makes unique artifacts out of refuse: wind chimes, pinwheels, toy trains, garbage trucks and other delightful things made of discarded beer and soda cans which he put on display.

S.F. Unified School District's recycling coordinator showed how the anti-litter campaign could continue in our personal lives into the future.

Serving food and giving away tee-shirts definitely enhanced commitment of clean-up volunteers. Participants were given tickets for a free lunch: barbecued chicken, potato salad and coleslaw provided by contributions and prepared by Joe Johnson of *Johnson's Barbecue* on San Bruno Ave. VVMS parents and teachers assembled vegetarian shishkabobs, grilled marinated eggplant and hot dogs.

And the first 130 volunteers who arrived at the event each received an eye-catching, three-color tee-shirt displaying a gold and magenta sun with the words *Visitacion Valley: Community on the Rise*. These tees, designed by a VVMS instructor, were contributed by Powerfood - Berkeley-based producers of Power Bar - a contribution worth more than $900.

WEATHER

As organizers held their collective breaths, *Mother Nature* came through for the *Clean-Up Campaign* with January 16 one of the only days of the month it didn't rain ... a beautiful, glorious, mostly sunny day.

INDIVIDUALS

What ultimately made this event so successful was hard work and commitment by a number of individuals: from organizers who put in untold hours planning, fretting, telephoning and personally calling on potential donors and participants; to the donors and contributors of tee-shirts, food, materials, trucks, garbage boxes and money; to teachers who polled their students about how they felt seeing garbage every day on the way to school, making them believe they could be a force of positive change and letting them go from class to class informing fellow students of the upcoming event; to the volunteers themselves, young and older, who gave of themselves and got in return not just food and tee-shirts, but the sense of belonging and of collective empowerment - *the sense of community*.

Crossword Solution

From Page 6

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• • R E S P E C T •
• C A R E • • O U T
N O D • A D • A R E
• • O W L • A L P S
• D N A • O R • I T
T R • R R • E S N •
R O L E • M A T • •
E V E • D O • R A T
K E N • • O M A N •
• S A G I N A W • •
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Lunch Served Every Day

Senior Bingo	Sewing
Holiday Crafts	Blood Pressure
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Pat Crocker : Director

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AT VVCC

66 Raymond Ave.
(at Bayshore)
San Francisco

Sunday Afternoons at 1 p.m.
Doors Open at 11:30 a.m.

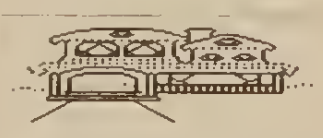
BIG PAYOUTS EACH GAME

Two Pad Minimum - $5 Per Pad

PUZZLER — THE HIGH SEAS

Andaman Sea
Arctic Ocean
Atlantic Ocean
Baltic Sea
Bering Sea
Black Sea
Caribbean Sea
East China Sea
Gulf of California
Gulf of Mexico
Hudson Bay
Indian Ocean
Mediterranean Sea
North Sea
Pacific Ocean
Persian Gulf
Red Sea
Sea of Japan
Sea of Okhotsk
South China Sea
Yellow Sea

C	O	B	F	L	U	G	N	A	I	S	R	E	P	H
I	S	D	E	E	R	R	N	E	W	C	T	I	A	U
T	I	B	S	R	E	P	O	O	H	T	E	C	M	D
L	G	I	N	D	I	A	N	M	R	I	N	A	E	S
A	N	A	M	A	D	N	A	D	E	T	L	R	D	O
B	W	O	L	L	E	Y	G	C	N	S	H	I	I	N
B	S	O	U	T	H	C	N	I	N	A	W	B	T	B
H	K	O	S	D	U	T	O	B	C	E	O	B	E	A
S	S	A	S	D	C	I	T	C	R	A	I	E	R	Y
F	T	M	N	R	N	X	C	B	I	D	P	A	R	K
O	O	E	R	T	E	O	B	Y	H	F	E	N	A	C
F	H	S	I	H	A	T	L	A	N	T	I	C	N	A
L	K	N	A	P	A	J	F	O	A	E	S	C	E	L
U	O	C	I	X	E	M	F	O	F	L	U	G	A	B
G	A	I	N	R	O	F	I	L	A	C	D	A	N	P



Little Hollywood Reports

By Su Fassell

Little Hollywood Association (LHA) is now established as a non-profit organization headquartered at the Little Hollywood Neighborhood Center, 336 Lathrop Ave., which can be reached at 467-9669.

PARK LIGHTING

Dail Miller of Norcal presented a report at a December 13 LHA meeting about a comprehensive development plan for their neighboring facilities, as well as updating the status of lighting Little Hollywood Park. Norcal has offered to underwrite a substantial portion of the costs of improving park lighting, which when added to available City funds will allow lighting of both upper and lower areas of the park as a deterrent to nighttime illicit activity.

NORCAL PROBLEMS

According to LHA President Don Bertone, many neighbors at the south end of Little Hollywood have been disturbed by recent Norcal operations. A relocated area for sorting construction debris exposed local residents to significant quantities of airborne dust from unknown materials - which might have included asbestos and lead paint dust - raising questions about Norcal's concern for local residents.

NOISY NEIGHBORS

Past LHA topics of discussion included:

*A neighbor running a noisy workshop-type business out of his garage, and swears at neighbors asking him to keep it down late at night;

*Health concerns posed by neighbors running illegal home businesses polluting the residential environment; and

*Construction of condo units adjacent to Executive Park.

VVMS Basketball Champs

Visitacion Valley Middle's School's basketball team recently won the middle school city championship, defeating Potrero Hill at Kezar Stadium to complete an undefeated season. Coaches Patrick Ciccarelli and Bernardo Parra coached VVMS to its first championship season in 21 years.

THE WHIZ

Vera Flores, Michael Hillman, Julio Leon and other VVMS staff are sponsoring a production of *The Whiz* with student singers, dancers and actors, scheduled for performances in early May.

This Month in S.F. History

FEBRUARY

2: In 1848, the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo was signed, ending the Mexican-American War and officially ceding California to the United States.

3: In 1918, street cars began running through the Twin Peaks Tunnel, completed in 1917.

11: In 1854, select major streets were first illuminated using coal gas. In 1936, construction started on Treasure Island - an 18,768,000 square foot fill adjacent to Yerba Buena Island - to serve as location of the 1939-40 Golden Gate International Exposition.

12: In 1851, the Adelphi Theatre hosted *La Sonnambula*, the City's first grand opera. In 1945, San Francisco was selected site of the United Nations Conference.

15: In 1861, Fort Point - under construction for many years - was finally completed, housing two companies of the 3rd Artillery. In 1880, the Geary St. Railroad opened, providing the first rail service to the ocean. In 1917, the S.F. Public Library in the Civic Center was dedicated.

18: In 1859, boundaries were designated creating San Francisco as a county. In 1939, the exposition opened its first year at Treasure Island, with 50 cents for adults and a quarter for children under 12.

20: In 1915, the Panama Pacific Exposition opened its gates.

26: In 1891, the first of many bison were purchased for Golden Gate Park. In 1933, Crissy Field in the Presidio hosted ground-breaking ceremonies for construction of the Golden Gate Bridge.

27: In 1907, the Farrallone Islands, once inflicted during the gold rush by profit-seeking egg poachers, was officially sanctioned a Federal Bird Reserve.

28: In 1849, the 1,050 ton steamer *California* arrived in S.F. Bay. Although 1,500 people sought continuing transport from Panama, the 200 foot-long ship - built for 200 passengers - carried nearly 400 for 42 days - first of the forty-niners.

Sump, the Grump By: Jackie Holder

Grapevine Crossword

Solution on Page 5

ACROSS
1. Honor
9. Concern
7. Absent
9. Approval
10. Announcement
11. Is
12. Bird
14. Mountains
16. Biological
19. Either
17. Object
19. Translate (ab)
19. Railroad (ab)
20. Emergency Service Network (ab)
22. Part
24. Rug
25. Sundown
26. Perform
27. Rodent
29. Barbie's boyfriend
30. Asian country
32. Michigan town

DOWN
1. Element
2. Emergency Room
3. Fasten
4. Fuel
5. Ben ___
9. Company (ab)
8. Examination
13. Avoid
14. Space
16. Crowds
19. Star ___
21. Fescue
23. ___ Home
24. Lunar
29. Article
31. Massachusetts

Steel: America's Most Recycled Material

By David Assmann

When you think about recycling, steel is probably not the first item that comes to mind. Yet steel is America's most recycled material. More steel is recycled annually than glass, paper, plastic, aluminum and other metals combined.

Much of this recycled steel comes from construction sites, cars and appliances. Last year, 30 million tons of steel were recycled from construction and demolition projects nationwide. To put this figure into perspective, that's about five times as much as the combined weight of all newspapers recycled nationwide. Another 11 million tons of scrap steel came from automobiles. In fact, U.S. steel makers recycled more steel from scrap automobiles last year than the domestic automobile industry purchased to manufacture new cars.

Appliances are the third major source of steel for recycling. Steel makes up about three-quarters of the weight of appliances, and this steel is easily recycled. Old air conditioners, washers, dishwashers, freezers, microwave ovens, refrigerators and other appliances are a valuable source of steel for new products. Since 1990, the national recycling rate for major home appliances has risen from 32 percent to 62 percent, producing more than 1.6 million tons of recycled steel in 1993 alone.

Steel makes up about five percent of the waste generated in San Francisco. In 1990, we recycled 45 million pounds of steel - 45 percent of the 100 million pounds of steel waste generated by San Francisco residents and businesses.

Since we can't put cars or refrigerators out on the curb for recycling, how can residents help recycle steel? The easiest thing we can do is recycle steel cans. What most of us have traditionally called tin cans are actually steel cans coated with a thin layer of steel. Steel cans include food, beverage, paint and aerosol containers. Bottle caps are also made from steel.

Steel cans and bottle caps are easily recyclable in San Francisco's curbside and apartment recycling programs (but not aerosol containers). Labels do not need to be removed, and you don't have to flatten the can. Please make sure, however, that the can is clean and rinsed. All you need to do is put your clean cans in your blue curbside bin, or, if you live in an apartment building with central recycling containers, put the cans in the large blue recycling container.

Last year, San Franciscans recycled more than two million pounds of steel cans. Although this sounds impressive, it represents less than 20 percent of the steel waste generated by residents each year. And while more than two-thirds of City residents recycle newspaper, less than half recycle steel cans.

Steel recycling preserves natural resources. For every ton of steel that is recycled, we save 2,500 pounds of iron ore, 1,000 pounds of coal and conserve more than 10 million BTUs of energy.

The average household consumes the content of two pounds of steel cans per week. If these cans are recycled, enough energy is saved to keep a 60-watt light bulb burning for more than two days. If we recycled just half the steel cans used by San Francisco residents in one year, we'd save enough energy to keep that light bulb burning for more than 40,000 years.

So what happens to the steel cans collected in the curbside and apartment recycling programs? Well, first they get separated from the other containers, then they get baled and shipped to a mill near Stockton, California. Once the cans are shredded and cleaned, the tin is separated from the steel at manufacturing plants either in Arizona or Washington. The tin is used to manufacture new cans, pewter solder and bronze.

The steel is sold to paint manufacturers, chemical companies and steel mills (for remanufacture into steel products - including cans). Two types of furnaces are used today in the steelmaking process. The first, a basic oxygen furnace, creates steel for cans, automobiles and appliances. This type of furnace usually uses about 25 percent steel scrap to make new steel. The second kind of furnace, the electric arc furnace, uses virtually 100 percent scrap steel to make new steel products for construction projects.

Recycling more steel cans is an easy way to help conserve resources. So the next time you recycle, make sure you include your steel cans. And since steel cans contain an average of 25 percent recycled steel, you can promote recycling by buying products packaged in steel cans.

SPCA Offering Limited Low Cost Vaccinatons

San Francisco SPCA offers a low-cost vaccination clinic during February for pets of San Franciscans on limited incomes.

For just $2 per inoculation, pets brought in by eligible owners can be vaccinated against the following diseases:

*Cats: rabies; and panleukopenia (feline distemper), calici and rhinotracheitis (FVRCP).

*Dogs: rabies; and parvovirus, parainfluenza, distemper, hepatitis and leptospirosis (DHLPP).

Financial eligibility can be established by a MediCal card or any document indicating an annual family income of $12,000 or less. Each family may have two pets vaccinated at this low cost.

Eligible pet may call the SF/SPCA Animal Hospital at 554-3030 throughout the month of February for an appointment.

Volunteers Needed for Hospice Thrift Store

Hospice Community Thrift Shop seeks volunteers to provide retail expertise and customer service at its 1173 Sutter St. location.

"We especially welcome retired persons with retail experience who can help us merchandise and sell the donations we receive from the community," said Constance Borden, executive director of Hospice by the Bay which manages the shop, and is dedicated to the care of people, their families and friends during the course of a terminal illness.

Opened in February 1990, this special thrift shop offers bargains for customers and a bargain for the community by helping fund hospice services provided by Hospice by the Bay. Volunteers work to help secure donations of usable and salable goods. Free pickup is offered to donors. Volunteer assistance and tax deductable donations may be made by phoning 873-3030.

Hospice by the Bay also serves the community by providing home health care, hospice care and bereavement counseling. This year, the organization will open Leland Avenue Residence, a permanent, independent living program located in Visitacion Valley. It will become home to 50 individuals with disabling HIV or AIDS and enable them to live independently in a supportive community environment.

Multimedia Playground At the Exploratorium

Back by popular demand at the Exploratorium, Multimedia Playground '95 combines hands-on experience with guided demonstrations through the latest developments in CD-ROM, virtual enviroments, the Internet and a media workshop where you can make your own multimedia projects.

Internet Workshops feature expertly navigated orientations and seven available public Internet workstations from 1 to 3 p.m. through March 12. Workshops are free with museum admission and offered on a first-come, first-served basis. Call the Exploratorium Multimedia Hotline at 353-0423.

RECIPE CORNER

CHUNKY BEEF FRITTERS

2 pound cooked unseasoned roast beef (cut into 1/2 to 1-inch pieces); 6 tbsp. milk; 1 tbsp. unbleached all-purpose flour; 3 large eggs, beaten; 1 1/2 cup self-rinsing flour; 4 tsp. salt; 1/4 tsp. pepper

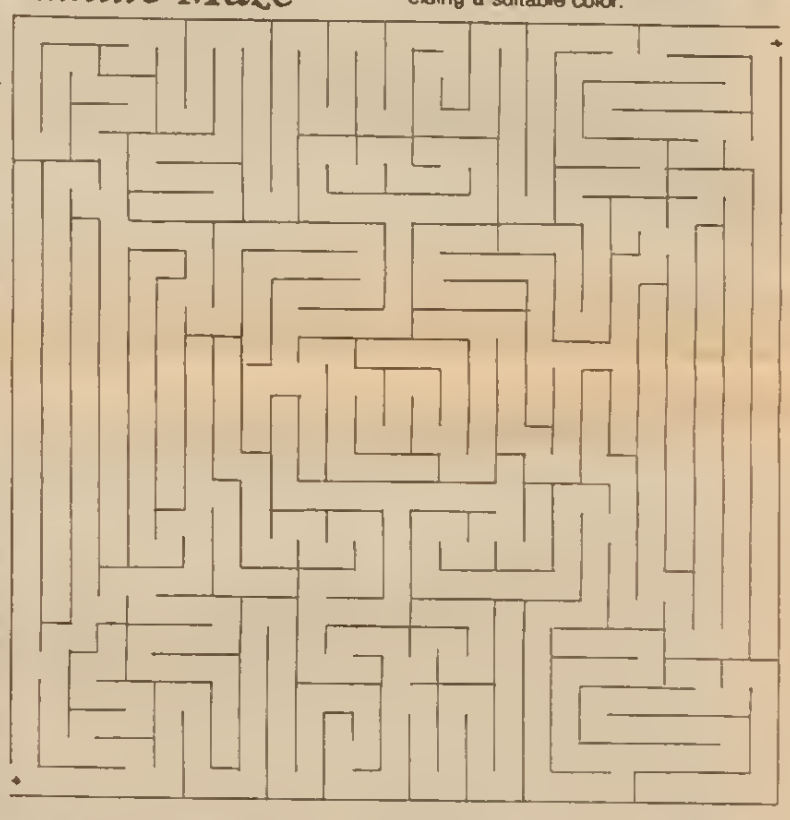
Combine milk and flour; stir into eggs. Combine self-rinsing flour, salt and pepper. Dip roast beef chunks in egg mixture and dredge in flour mixture. Fry in hot deep fat until browned and heated through. Drain on absorbent paper towels and serve hot.

Serve in divided serving dish surrounded by pickles, cherry tomatoes, green pepper rings, carrot curls, celery sticks and parsley, as desired. Serves 5.

New Paint Job for VVCC

Following chemical removal of existing lead-based paint, funding designated in 1991 will finally be used in a much needed exterior paint job this month for Visitacion Valley Community Center. Center staff are currently deciding a suitable color.

Minute Maze



Famous Birthdays

FEBRUARY

1: Laura Dern (1967); Don Everly (1937); Sherman Helmsley (1938); Garrett Morris (1919); Stuart Whitman (1926)

2: Amanda Blake (1931); Garth Brooks (1962); Farrah Fawcett (1947); Gale Gordon (1906); James Joyce (1882); Graham Nash (1942); Tom Smothers (1937)

3: Joey Bishop (1918); James Bridges (1936); Victor Bouno (1938); Morgan Fairchild (1950); Norman Rockwell (1894)

4: Michael Beck (1949); David Brenner (1945); Nigel Bruce (1895); Alice Cooper (1948); Charles Lindbergh (1902); Ida Lupino (1914); Dan Quayle (1947)

5: Hank Aaron (1934); Red Buttons (1919); Barbara Hershey (1948)

6: Tom Brokaw (1940); Natalie Cole (1950); Fabian (1943); Mike Farrell (1939); Ronald Reagan (1911); Rip Torn (1931); Michael Tucker (1944); Marnie Van Doren (1933)

7: Eddie Braken (1920); Charles Dickens (1932); Sinclair Lewis (1885); Gay Talese (1932)

9: Gary Coleman (1968); Robert Klein (1942); Jack Lemmon (1923); Audrey Meadows (1924); Nick Nolte (1940); Mary Steenburgen (1953); Lyle Talbot (1902); Lana Turner (1920); Jules Verne (1828)

9: William Henry Harrison (1773); Judith Light (1949); Roger Mudd (1928); Bill Veeck (1914)

10: Jimmy Durante (1992); Roberta Flack (1939); Bill Tilden (1893); Robert Wagner (1930)

11: Lloyd Bentsen (1921); Thomas Edison (1847); Sergio Mendez (1941); Leslie Nielsen (1926); Burt Reynolds (1936)

12: Charles Darwin (1809); Joe Garagiola (1926); Arsenio Hall (1955); Abraham Lincoln (1809)

13: Peter Gabriel (1950); Kim Novak (1933); Oliver Reed (1938); George Segal (1934); Leslie Stevens (1924); Peter Tork (1944)

14: Mel Allen (1913); Jack Benny (1894); Hugh Downs (1921); Florence Henderson (1934); Gregory Hines (1946); Alan Parker (1944)

16: Susan B. Anthony (1920); John Barrymore (1882); Ken Curtis (1923); Galileo (1564); Harvey Korman (1927); Melissa Manchester (1951); Cesar Romero (1907); Jane Seymour (1951)

18: Patty Andrews (1920); Edgar Bergen (1903); Sonny Bono (1935); Vera-Ellen (1926)

17: Jim Brown (1936); Margaret Truman Daniel (1924); Hal Holbrook (1923); Lou Diamond Phillips (1962); A. Montgomery Ward (1843)

19: Helen Gurley Brown (1922); Matt Dillon (1964); George Kennedy (1925); Jack Palance (1920); Cybill Shepherd (1950); John Travolta (1954); Vanna White (1957); Wendell Willkie (1892)

19: Prince Andrew (1960); Justine Bateman (1966); Nicolas Copernicus (1473); Jeff Daniels (1955); Smokey Robinson (1940); Forrest Tucker (1919)

20: Ansel Adams (1902); Charles Barkley (1963); Cindy Crawford (1966); Sandy Duncan (1946); Mayor Frank Jordan (1935); Alexei Kosygin (1904); Peter Strauss (1947); Nancy Wilson (1937)

21: Erma Bombeck (1927); Ann Sheridan (1915); Nina Simone (1933)

22: Sparky Anderson (1934); Drew Barrymore (1975); Ted Kennedy (1932); Sheldon Leonard (1907); John Mills (1908); George Washington (1732); Robert Young (1907)

23: Sylvia Chase (1938); Peter Fonda (1939); George F. Handel (1685); Robert Novak (1944); Johnny Winter (1944)

24: James Farentino (1938); Chester Nimitz (1885); John Vernon (1932); Abe Vigoda (1921); Honus Wagner (1974)

25: Jim Backus (1913); Diane Baker (1938); Francisco Coronado (1510); George Harrison (1943); Sally Jessy Raphael (1943); Bobby Riggs (1919)

26: Johnny Cash (132); Buffalo Bill Cody (1846); Fats Domino (1929); Jackie Gleason (1920); Betty Hutton (1925); Tony Randall (1928)

27: Chelsea Clinton (1980); Howard Hesseman (1940); Ralph Nader (1934); Irwin Shaw (1913); John Steinbeck (1902); Elizabeth Taylor (1932); Joanne Woodward (1930)

28: David McLeod (1930); Bernadette Peters (1948); Bubba Smith (1945); Tommy Tune (1939)

29: Jimmy Dorsey (1904); Ann Lee (1736); James Mitchell (1920); Gioacchino Rossini (1792)

February 1995

Congratulations S.F. 49ers On Your 49-26 Super Bowl Win in Miami !

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1	2 11:00am VVCC Senior Council Meeting 7:00pm ROSES meeting	3 12:00pm VVCC Seniors - Painting Classes 7:30pm Visitacion Valley Adm Evening Aero	4 10:00am Saturday Art Classes at VVCC (50 Raymond)
5 1:00pm VVCC Bingo	6 11:30am VVCC Seniors Shopping Day	7 11:30am VVCC Senior Bingo	8 6:00pm Executive Park Advisory Committee-open to all	9	10 12:00pm VVCC Seniors - Painting Classes	11 10:00am Saturday Art Classes at VVCC (50 Raymond)
12 1:00pm VVCC Bingo Lincoln's Birthday	13 11:30am VVCC Seniors Shopping Day	14 11:30am VVCC Senior Bingo 4:00pm VVCC Board Meeting 4:30pm Sunnydale Tenants Mtg 7:00pm El Dorado N.B.C Meeting Valentine's Day	15	16	17 12:00pm VVCC Seniors - Painting Classes	18 10:00am Saturday Art Classes at VVCC (50 Raymond) 10:00am Friends of McLaren Park
19 1:00pm VVCC Bingo	20 President's Day	21 11:30am VVCC Senior Bingo	22 Washington's Birthday	23 9:00am USDA Surplus Food Distribution Day at VVCC	24 12:00pm VVCC Seniors - Painting Classes	25 10:00am Saturday Art Classes at VVCC (50 Raymond) 6:00pm Vis. Valley Task Force - at 240 Leland
26 1:00pm VVCC Bingo	27 11:30am VVCC Seniors Shopping Day	28 11:30am VVCC Senior Bingo				

City Meetings: Aging-1st Wed 9:30 am; Airport-1st & 3rd Tu 3 pm; Arts-1st Mon 3 pm; Education-2nd/4th Tu 7 pm; Health-1st/3rd Tu 3 pm; Housing Authority-2nd/4th Th 4 pm; Human Rights-1st/3rd Th 4:30 pm; Library-1st Tu 5:30 pm; Planning-Th 1:30 pm; Police-Wed 5:30 pm; Port-1st Tu/3rd Wed 4:30 pm; Public Utilities-2nd/4th Tu 2 pm; Rec and Park-3rd Th 2 pm; Social Services-4th Th 9:30 am; Status of Women-4th Th 4pm; Supervisors-Mon 2 pm.

Free Fitness Evaluations Part of National Campaign

American Heart Association (AHA) the YMCA of the USA and the YWCA of the USA want to know: *When it comes to fitness, do you measure up?*

That's the theme of the year's *HeartScore '95* project, a week-long national campaign to educate more Americans about health, fitness and the value of a regular exercise program. The project will be launched nationally on a week-long series on the CBS *This Morning* show scheduled February 6-10.

AHA, and local YMCA and YWCA branches will provide free fitness evaluations througout the week to coincide with the televilson series. Main target group is sedentary adults. A fitness evaluation includes a one-mile walk to assess how well heart and lungs work during exertion, and a waist/hip measurement to show where body fat is distributed. Participants should wear loose-fitting clothes to the fitness assessment.

Individuals will receive fitness results and a chart for recording results on two additional retests which they can conduct themselves. Personalized information about how to improve physical fitness and reduce risk for heart disease and stroke will also be provided.

Locations for free fitness evaluations in San Francisco include: Stonestown YMCA, 333 Eucalyptus Dr. (759-9622); Embarcadero YMCA, 169 Steuart St. (957-9622); Central YMCA, 220 Golden Gate Ave. (885-0460); Chinetown YMCA, 855 Sacramento St. (982-4412); and Buchanan YMCA, 1530 Buchanan St. (931-9622).

Individuals who wish to perform their own fitness evaluation at home may pick up the information at any of these locations or by contacting the AHA at 1-800-AHA-USA1.

HeartScore is part of the observation of American Heart Month, recognizing need for all Americans to take part in the continuing battle against heart disease and stroke. In 1963, U.S. Congress mandated the President to issue a proclamation annually designating February as American Heart Month. AHA works with the Administration in drafting and signing of this annual proclamation.

Physical inactivity is one of four controllable risk factors for heart attack. *HeartScore* will provide Bay Area residents information about reducing their risks for heart disease that could be potentially lifesaving.

AHA is the nation's largest voluntary health agency dedicated to reduction of disability and death from heart and blood vessel diseases.

Peace Corps at S.F. State

Peace Corps will be conducting information presentations February 21 and 22 at the S.F. State *Student Union* 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. and February 22 the Fort Mason Cultural Center, Building C, Room 370 from 7 to 9 p.m. Those qualifying must be U.S. citizens in good health at least 18 years old with either a bachelor's degree or 3 to 5 years skilled working experience. There is no upper age limit. Call 744-2677 or 1-800-424-8580 for more information.

Fact Sheet on Phone Services Available

A decision by the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) now permits all phone companies to complete local toll calls - connections of more than 16 miles - within the state's 11 local service areas. Rates for those calls have dropped significantly, but charges for basic monthly service have gone up dramatically.

Consumer Action (CA) released a free fact sheet to help Californians understand and cope with major changes in phone services that took effect on New Year's Day. Available in eight languages, the publication was distributed to the public through community agencies throughout the state.

For a copy of *Your Phone Service is Changing*, send a self-addressed stamped envelope (32 cents) to: Phone Service Changes, c/o Consumer Action, 116 New Montgomery St., Number 233, San Francisco, CA 94105. Specify the language needed: Cambodian, Chinese, English, Korean, Laotian, Spanish, Tagalog or Vietnamese.

"Many people will be shocked by the higher rates for basic services," predicted CA Executive Director Ken McEldowney, "and most Californians are going to be confused by the changes." He contended that news stories have ignored or downplayed key facts:

"The promised 39 percent decrease in local toll rates is an average - many calls by residential customers will show much smaller price decreases, and some will not drop at all.

"Shorter distance toll calls will decrease much less in price than longer distance calls.

"The average decrease in daytime rates is twice that of night-weekend calls.

"Total monthly bills will rise sharply for many customers. The CPUC predicts that the median residential customer of GTE California will pay 16 percent more in 1995, and the median residential Pacific Bell customer will pay two percent more. In fact, the increase will be much higher for people who make few or no local toll calls.

"The CPUC ordered local phone companies to waive the fee for switching basic service plans for three months, to help people adjust to the new rates. However, while higher rates will mean that many low income people will want to switch to low cost Lifeline service, the fee for changing to Lifeline has not been waived.

"We've prepared our fact sheet to help people understand how the changes will affect them and to learn how to reduce their phone bills," said McEldowney. "It includes simple things that people can do to save money on phone services."

CA is now conducting a statewide educational program helping community agencies explain the changes to their clients.

Grapevine Advertising

DISPLAY RATES PER ISSUE: Full Page: $150; 1/2 Page: $80; 1/4 Page: $45; 1/8 Page: $25; 1/12 Page: $15.
PRIVATE PARTY WANT-ADS: 20 words for $1. Additional lines 50 cents each.
Mail ad and payment by 20th of prior month to *Visitacion Valley Grapevine*, 60 Raymond Ave., San Francisco, CA 94134

Saturday Classes At Randall Museum

Located at 199 Museum Way, the Randall Museum offers hands-on Saturday classes lasting 1 to 2 hours at 1 p.m. Space is limited and sign-ups begin at 12:30 p.m. All ages are welcome, but children under eight should be accompanied by an adult. There is plenty of free parking. Call 554-9600 for information.

*February 4: *Black Inventions Collage* with Kemit Amenophis. The turn signal in your car, your golf tee and the elevator you ride are among the myriad of this invented by African-Americans. Learn about the wealth of contributions made to our daily lives by making interesting collages. $4 a person.

*February 11: *Another Afternoon of Tall Tales* Professional storytellers draw their material from the rich and diverse experience of African-American culture. Lively entertainment and education for the young and old! $3 for adults and $1 for children.

*February 18: *Printing from the Harlem Renaissance* with Gwendolyn Dubois Shaw. During the 1920s, the neighborhood of Harlem in New York became the center of a vital movement of African-American art. Let it inspire you in your own printing project. $4 a person.

*February 25: *Visual Interpretations of Jazz* with Arinthia Jones. Interpret the sounds of the 1950s jazz giants from the bebop era in a mixed media painting on wood. $4 a person.

ALSO ON SATURDAYS

Animal Feeding at 12:15 p.m., *Free Animal Talk* at 2:15 p.m.; *Model Railroad Exhibit* every second and fourth Saturdays from 12 noon to 4 p.m.; *Drop-in Ceramics* 10 to 11:30 a.m. through March 18 and *Saturday Science* 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. weekly, except March 4, through April 1.

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ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON HAZARDOUS
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ON TUNNEL AVENUE

Regular Meeting, February 7, 1995, 7 p.m.
Tuntex Offices, Fourth Floor
150 Executive Park Blvd., San Francisco

Review of Draft of EIR Report
Necessary Zoning Actions
Accident Analysis

Further information: 558-6319, or
Don Bertone, Chair: 467-9669

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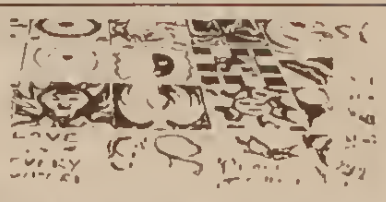
World Wall for Peace Project Commenced In McLaren Park



Peace Well is a project designed by Carolyna Marks in which residents of e community decorata ceramic tiles with various dasigns of their own - representing tha idea of peace - and effix them to an existing concreta wall somewhere in a prominant place in their neighborhood.

Visitacion Valley neighbors who live around McLaren Perk began putting together a *Peace Well* tile painting project during tha January 16 *Clean-Up Campaign*, expressing their views of what peace means to them.

With a purpose of promoting greater peace in the community and the world, the idea behind *Peace Well* is to get peopla talking end thinking of peace. Walls ara currently together all over the world, including Russia.

McLaren Perk's *Peace Well* is part the *World Well for Peace*, a chainit is hoped will circla tha entire globe. To participate in future projects, call Don at 467-5114.

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Does Caffeine Cause Dependence?

People heve been consuming foods and beverages containing caffeine tor thousands of years, but controversy continues to percolate about just how safe this tood component really is.

Commonly lound in coffee, tea and some sodas, caffeine mede headlines again when a study published last October in the *Journal of the American Medical Association* suggested catfeina dependence in certain individuals was similar to dependence on alcohol or tobacco.

Eric Strain, M.D., and Roland Griffiths, Ph.D. of the John Hopkins University conducted standardized medical and psychiatric interviews on 27 volunteer subjects who believed they wera dependent on caffeine.

Of these 27, 16 were identified as "caffeina dependent," based on a standard medical definition of dependency to drugs of ebuse. Their medical daily intake of caffeina was 357 milligrams (mg), or about four cups ot coffea per dey.

Eleven of tha 16 subjects participated in an evaluation of their caffeine withdrawal experianca. Subjects adhered to a caffeine-free diet tor two 48-hour periods; at one time they wera given their normal dose of caffeine in pill form and during the other tima they were given a placebo.

Nine of the volunteers reported symptoms of caffeine withdrawal such as headaches, tatigua, depression and lack of vigor when they were given tha placebo instead of caffeine.

STUDY IMPLICATIONS

What do the study's findings mean lor some 80 percent ot Americans who consume caffeine regularly?

According to some scientists, the small sample size and high rates of past psychiatric disorders among the study subjects greatly limit the applicability of these findings to the general population.

"Medical experts have long agreed that tha minor symptoms caused by abrupt caffeine cessation such as headaches or tatigue can be eliminated by gradually decreasing caffeine consumption," said Peter Dews, M.D., professor ameritus of psychobiology et the Harvard Medical School. "Generally, tha symptoms people experience disappear within a few days."

Despite these minor symptoms associated with abrupt caffeina withdrawal, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and the American Medical Association (AMA) consider caffeine to be a safe ingredient. According to a 1987 statement, FDA reviewed "studies on teratology reproduction, behavior, carcinogenicity and cardiovascular disease ... but found no evidence to show that tha use of caffeina in carbonated beverages would rendar these beverages injurious to health."

A recent report from the AMA Council on Scientific Affairs stated, "Moderate tea or coffee drinkers probably need have no concern for their health relativa to their caffeine consumption provided other lifestyle habits (diet, alcohol consumption) are moderate as well."

Ona of tha most controversial aspects of this study was tha researchers' epplication ot the American Psychiatric Association's definition of drug dependence, usually reserved for psychoactive substances. Likening the effects of caffeine to drugs of ebuse could substantially minimize the impact of important drug education messages, especially among youth, Dews noted.

ADDICTION VS. DEPENDENCE

Tha study's authors did emphasize thet their findings should not be misinterpreted to minimize the dangers of smoking, alcohol and serious drug ebuse. "Caffeine generally does not produce similarly serious health problems," said Griffiths.

Caffeine consumption patterns differ sharply from those associated with serious drugs of dependence, according to Dews. For example, caffeina intake does not result in e craving for steadily increased doses, and it ts not overly difficult to discontinue its consumption.

Furthermore, the antisocial behavior provoked by drug abuse is not associated with caffeine consumption. Unlike drugs ot dependence, caffeine intake is not associated with any chronic health problems.

"Addiction means e dysfunctional use of a drug ... that a drug has taken control of a person's life," said Charles O'Brien, M.D., professor of psychiatry at the University of Pennsylvania Medical School. "Caffeine is not an addictiva substance and by no stretch of the imagination fits that definition. Certainly, none of the patients I've seen over the years hava qualified as caffeine addicts," added O'Brien who counsels addicts regularly.

Although caffeine dependence is an area for future research, most experts agree that normal caffeine consumption is safe, and Americans can continue to enjoy their favorita caffeine-containing products as part of a healthful lifestyle.

International Food Information Council

CAFFEINE CHRONOLOGY

Caffeine is e naturally-occurring substance found in the leaves, seeds or fruits of mora than 60 plants. Popular caffeine-containing beverages in history includa:

"*Tea* (2735 B.C.) Evergreen leaves accidently telf into boiling water et an emperor's party creating a wonderful- smelling drink.

"*Coffee* (A.D. 575) Beans wera used as money and consumed es food.

"*Soft Drinks* (1884) The world's first caffeine soft drink was created.

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